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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 4.

BOSTON, MASS., SEPT. 15, 1900.

NO. 3.

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A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Go slow.
Fall next.
Be careful.
Never rush.
Think first.
Abhor filth.
Cool nights.
Energy wins.
Love conquers.
Have a system.
Buy new blood.
Read and learn.
Plan for Winter.
Be up and doing.
Market the culls.
Get a move on you.
Build up gradually.
Keep up your stock.
Haste makes waste.
Neglect costs money.
Clean up the rubbish.
Breed from your best.
"Keep pegging away."
Get rid of the surplus.
Molting to perfection.
Broodiness about over.
Hard Winter predicted.
Have a firm foundation.
Slip Shod has the blues.
There's lots in "comfort."
Have business principles.
Patronize our advertisers.
Let your interest be deep.
Have a general cleaning up.
Helter Skelter is a failure.
Beware of volunteered advice.
Thoroughbreds are money-makers.

Experimental Farm Notes.

New Champion in the White Plymouth Rock Class—The 100 Mark Passed—Increased Number of Layers and Eggs—The First and Third Contestants of Last Month Change Places—General Notes and Comments.

The White Plymouth Rock pens are certainly developing fine layers. Again the laurels of first place are cast among them. No. 46, which has 107 eggs to her credit, is but an ordinary looking hen, with what fanciers would call a poor comb—but she has the ability to do good laying, and that is worth more to us than any outer adornment. It is not uncommon to find that the poorest looking cow in the herd is the best milker, and so it is with hens.

During the month of July, the following number of hens were laying:

Pen No. 0	7
1	12
2	10
3	8
4	7
5	19
6	11
7	18
8	14
9	15
R. I. Reds	10
Miscellaneous	1

Total, 132

A increase of 6 layers during the month.

The above table represents the following number of layers of each breed:

Brahmas	48
Wyandottes	44
White Plymouth Rocks	29
Rhode Island Reds	10

During the month the following number of eggs were laid (not including miscellaneous stock):

Wyandottes, 44 head, 668 eggs; average 15.8
W. P. Rocks, 29 head, 375 eggs; average 12.27
Brahmas, 48 head, 584 eggs; average 12.8
R. I. Reds, 10 head, 120 eggs; average 12.00

The highest number of eggs we gathered in one day during the month of July, was 81, and the lowest number 40.

The highest number of Brahma eggs received in one day was 27, and the lowest number 10.

The highest number of Wyandotte eggs received in one day was 32, and the lowest number 13.

The highest number of White Plymouth Rock eggs received in one day was 16, and the lowest number 8.

The highest number of Rhode Island Red eggs received in one day was 8, and the lowest number 0.

The standing of individual layers is as follows (from January 1st to August 1st—excluding all that laid under 60 eggs in that time):

No. 46, White Plymouth Rock	107 eggs
45, White Wyandotte	100
75, White Plymouth Rock	99
52, " "	97
86, Rhode Island Red	97
16, Brahma (Felch)	97
38, White Wyandotte	96
26, " "	93
30, " "	91
52, Brahma (Cost)	91
76, White Plymouth Rock	80
63, " "	88
18, White Wyandotte	88
22, " "	88
16, " "	87
17, " "	87
66, White Plymouth Rock	86
32, Brahma (Felch)	84
77, White Plymouth Rock	82
6, Brahma (Roberts)	81
Silver Wyandotte	81
59, Brahma (Cost)	80
46, " "	79
21, " (Felch)	79
62, " (Cost)	78
43, " (Felch)	77
56, " (Cost)	75
34, " (Felch)	75
17, " "	74
11, White Wyandotte	74
43, " "	74
70, White Plymouth Rock	74
73, " "	73
4, White Wyandotte	73
28, " "	72
5, " "	72
81, White Plymouth Rock	72
39, Brahma (Cost)	71
21, White Wyandotte	71
37, " "	71
61, Brahma (Cost)	70
47, " "	70
15, White Wyandotte	69
23, " "	68
45, Brahma (Cost)	67
7, White Wyandotte	67
67, White Plymouth Rock	66
1, Brahma (Roberts)	65
27, " (Cost)	64
25, " "	64
13, White Wyandotte	64
58, Brahma (Cost)	64
33, White Wyandotte	64
91, Rhode Island Red	63
65, Brahma (Cost)	62
35, White Wyandotte	61
29, " "	60
34, " "	60
54, White Plymouth Rock	60

The highest individual record during the month belongs to White Plymouth Rock hens Nos. 76 and 81, each having laid 22 eggs apiece.

The total number of eggs laid on the farm during July was 1785, an increase of 164 eggs over the previous month.

During July the highest price we received retail for eggs was 25 cents a dozen; lowest 18 cts.; average 20 cts.

A reader of A FEW HENS wishes to know if we have dropped our two-acre experiment. Not by any means. Our chief work at present is to test our layers, and get rid of the drones. The work we are now doing with trap nests will be of a great help in making that living from two acres. At the end of the year we will have a full account of what we did the entire season.

Next year we will breed largely from year old stock. There will, however, be separate yards of pullets, and comparisons will be made to determine which will be the most profitable. Just how long we can profitably breed a hen will serve to make some interesting experiments in the future.

We have taken all of the male birds out of the breeding pens, keeping each cock in a separate enclosure. This plan we adopt each year, as it enables the fowls to molt more easily, and the backs of hens are not injured by the attention of males.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

The Proper Foundation for Successful Poultry Work Should be Egg Production—Experience has Proved that the Best Way to Establish an Income is to Make Egg Growing the Feature, and Meat Supply the Adjunct—They Both Work Well Together.

Bad eggs raise trouble.

The egg crop is diminishing.

Fresh eggs find ready buyers.

Fresh eggs command respect.

Spoiled eggs go to the tanners.

Let your eggs be above suspicion.

Prices have ruled well the past Summer. Yarded poultry do not have a chance to steal nests.

No "hidden nests" on the well regulated poultry farm.

One bad egg in the lot is apt to cost more than the crate.

Keep up your reputation for having the Simon-pure article.

Brown shelled eggs are becoming more fashionable every year.

Householders stop buying eggs when they "lose confidence in them."

Disbelievers in trap nests might as well laugh at the Babcock system in dairying.

Condemned eggs, though not spoiled, are sold to the factory for printing calico.

Unfertilized eggs, set upon by the hen for a week or two, are apt to become considerably "riled."

Cracked eggs are generally sent to the packing houses, where they are separated and canned.

The color of the yolk no more than the color of the shell has anything to do with the quality of the egg.

Mr. Jacobs don't like trap nests; we do.

"Great men" have been known to disagree on smaller trifles than trap nests!

The farmer may be honest enough, but he has a habit of dumping that "nestful of eggs" in the fresh egg basket.

It is amusing to read the comments of an editor who never in his life used trap nests, and who has failed to secure what might be called a reasonable egg record.

Gradually the editors are seeing their mistake in giving recipes for "preserving" eggs, and, following in the footsteps of A FEW HENS, are showing the evil of the way.

If breeding from your best layers does not increase the egg records of your stock, why should the same line of mating be followed by breeders of other live stock? The arguments used by such writers are really amusing.

The *Farmer's Guide* says: No farmer can afford to sell a thing for other than just what it is. If a farmer would sell only that which he can honestly recommend, he would be doing for himself the best sort of advertising. No business man can afford not to treat his customers on the square. It pays to be honest and to create a confidence in one's self as well as in the eggs we sell.

A car-load of evaporated or crystalized eggs, valued at \$14,000, was lately shipped from Springfield, Mo., according to the *Kansas City Packer*, to Cape Nome. The evaporated product is packed in one pound, screw-top tin cans, about four dozen eggs being required for each can. The evaporating is done by means of hot air, and it takes about 8 hours to complete the process. At this factory, about 500 to 600 cases of eggs are used per day.

In a well written article in *Poultry Keeper*, editor Jacobs says: Outside of the cold storage process, which is too expensive for the farmer, there is no mode of preserving eggs so as to keep them fresh for six months. When we use the term "fresh" we mean similar in appearance to an egg newly laid. Even where the cold storage method is used there is something to observe before the eggs are placed therein, and in any case they differ from those recently removed from the nest. An egg is a perishable article. It may not decay as rapidly as a strawberry, but sooner or later its contents change.

Geo. H. Freeman, Hallowell, Maine, writes: "I am a subscriber to your paper, A FEW HENS, and enjoy it very much. Have read a good many egg records, but think I have a thoroughbred White Wyandotte hen that will beat them all. She was hatched May 15, 1899, and laid her first egg November 19; has been broody twice—the first time in May, when she did not lay for nine days, and the second time in August, twelve days. In November she laid 9 eggs; December, 24; January, 26; February, 24; March, 17; April, 23; May, 20; June, 27; July, 29; August, to date (23d), 10; a total of 209 eggs in 277 days, with 88 more days to complete the year. Will send her record at the end of the year, also

the record of the pen to which she belongs, as they are all very heavy layers."

Wm. H. Child, Hatboro, Pa., the well known and reliable Wyandotte breeder and regular advertiser in A FEW HENS, sends the following account of good laying: "The first of my White Wyandotte pullets to lay this season, commenced August 17th, and another started on the 19th. This is the earliest I have ever had any of them lay. Of course, I know these are not the most desirable layers, as they nearly always molt; but it is a satisfactory proof of the precocity of my birds. No. 59, White Wyandotte pullet laid her 150th egg yesterday (August 23). She commenced January 4th. She has never been broody. For five months she has laid 20 or over each month, and so far this month has laid 17 eggs. I have several of her chickens, both pullets and cockerels, and am anxious to test them next season."

"Positively the best material I have ever found for nests," writes Edgar L. Warren, author of *200 Eggs a Year Per Hen: How to Get Them* (to A FEW HENS) "is excelsior. I use not the finest fibred excelsior, but excelsior with fibres nearly a quarter of an inch wide, such as the packers of fancy crackers put in the bottom and top of their boxes. My grocer gives me all I can use. My nests are barrels sawed off just above the second row of hoops, and about a foot deep. Before I put in the excelsior I spray the barrel thoroughly with kerosene, and also spray the excelsior after it is in the nest. Such a nest is cool, sanitary and neat. When the excelsior becomes foul I take it out, apply a match, and—puff—it vanishes in flame! Such a nest is appreciated by the hens, who show their appreciation by depositing in it a large number of brown-shelled eggs."

About Broilers and Roasters.

Next to Having Plump, Well-Meated Broilers and Roasters is an Attractive and Clean Method of Killing, Dressing and Shipping to Market—The Successful Poulterer is the One Who Has Made These Matters Close Study.

Neatness brings buyers.

The best always go first.

Ship the culls for roasters.

Fall chickens are profitable.

The Dorking is England's pride.

Quick growth influences quick sales.

The markets have a surplus of poor stuff.

The Houdan is the Frenchman's champion.

The American varieties lead as table poultry.

Poultry buyers are educated—they want the best.

Don't market fowls when in a molting condition.

Shipments should be avoided in the heat of the day.

Buff and white breeds give the cleanest looking carcasses.

To market an ailing fowl is—or should be—considered a crime.

Over-exercise is not conducive to juicy, tender meat and plumpness.

It is never advisable to place poultry on the table the day it is killed.

The overfat hen will pay better in market than she will on the farm.

The farm-range roaster cannot begin to compare with the yarded stock.

Better sell the culls at a fair price than spend more feed and money on them.

Do not send to market what you would hesitate to have served on your own table.

Query: In our endeavor to secure the 200-egg hen, are we not apt to lessen the meat qualities?

The meat of the Langshan fowl is nearer that of the turkey, in flavor, than is any other variety.

One hundred miles is not too far from market if shipments can be made in the evening to reach destination the next morning.

Cold storage poultry is not meeting with the remunerative sales that were expected—if we may judge from commercial reports.

The carcass should be dressed immediately after killing. To allow the feathers to remain on for several hours will hasten decomposition.

In France parts of a carcass can be purchased in market—legs, wings, heart, or any part wanted. In America it is the whole thing or nothing.

A molting fowl is not, strictly speaking, a sick fowl, but the meat is practically without flavor owing to the drain on the system incident to molting.

How strange that epicures who delight in the white-skinned turkey or duck, should be so set against the white-skinned chicken. But it seems nothing will overrule this prejudice.

The Wyandotte should not be bred so large as the Plymouth Rock. There should be three grades of market fowls—large roasters (like Brahmas), medium-sized roasters (like Plymouth Rocks), and small roasters (like Wyandottes).

There is but one absolutely successful way to ship iced poultry, and that is in crushed ice, says Kansas City *Packer*. It should be shipped in barrels that are strong, with holes in the bottom. First place a layer of excelsior on the bottom of the barrel, then a layer of crushed ice. Lay the fowls neatly together and then cover them with another layer of crushed ice. Keep this up until the barrel is filled. When the top is reached, cover the last layer of fowls with an inch and a half of ice. The finer it is crushed the better. Place over this some excelsior, and over the top burlap. Poultry shipped in this way will never bruise, and arrives in the market in excellent condition. Ice crushed as it is done for bar-rooms is the kind to use in shipping dressed poultry. The crushed ice seems to form a crust in each layer, and keeps the poultry as sweet and nice as when first killed. All who follow these directions will have no trouble with iced poultry.

The public demand for yellow-meated and yellow-legged poultry just compels one to consider the fancies of the consumers, says the *American Cultivator*. It is difficult to say why cer-

tain market demands for farm products arise, but it is sufficient for the producer to meet the demand. Yellow-meated birds are no better in flavor or tenderness than the white-meated ones, but it is difficult to convince city consumers of that. The idea has gained ground that ideal poultry should have yellow legs and yellow meat. Display fowls on the same stand at once for sale, and the yellow-meated birds would sell for the highest quotations, while the white-meated chickens would drag and be finally knocked down at a discount. Knowing this, it is a waste of time to raise birds for market that do not have both yellow legs and yellow meat. Fortunately two of our best breeds meet this requirement, and in addition to furnishing the right kind of meat, they are good layers and setters. Both the Plymouth Rocks and the Wyandottes have the necessary requisites for good meat poultry, and they are also such good layers that they are all-round profitable birds.

Our Brevity Symposium.

The Mails are Still Heavy With Replies to the Inquiries Found in Our Symposium—Surely Here We are Gathering Together the Very Best of Poultry Knowledge.

No. 1.

What methods do you pursue in fighting lice, and have you been reasonably successful?

Cleanliness, kerosene oil, and naphthalene flakes. Very successful.—P. H. George, Brainwood, Ills.

I spray my hen house with kerosene emulsion several times a year, and put road dust and air slaked lime in the nests and on the ground floor. I can thus keep them down.—No Name, Parkman, Ohio.

Dust fowls once a month with Lambert's Lice Powder; put a little occasionally in bottom of nest boxes. Also oil perches with kerosene once a week. Highly satisfactory.—J. C. Cloud, Lansdowne, Pa.

Spraying coal oil solution and white-wash in hen house; Persian Insect Powder for sitting hens and clucks.—Jas. S. Nicholson, Strathroy, Canada.

I fight lice in various ways, but have had best success by using *Carbolineum Avenarius* according to directions, in nests, on roosts and in coops, for preventing mites; and by greasing hen and chick when first taken from nest for prevention of head and body lice. I also grease all broody hens when shutting them up to cure broody fever. I use one cup of lard, half cup of kerosene, and one teaspoonful clear (not crude) carbolic acid.—Mrs. Tilla Leach, Cheneyville, Ills.

Equal parts of coal oil and crude carbolic acid. Putting moth balls in nest boxes also works very successfully.—Alex. Weigand, Wheatland, Mo.

In fighting lice in summer, I paint the roosting place twice a week with coal oil, use moth balls in the nests, Lambert's powder to dust the hens.—Winfield Darling, So. Setauket, L. I., N. Y.

Paint roosts and nests with coal oil and carbolic acid, and dust sitting hens with Lambert's Death to Lice. Reasonably successful.—Samuel Sear, Williamsport, Pa.

Have tried removing soil from bottom of houses four inches, filling in with 10 inches fresh sand and gravel; white-washing thoroughly; putting in new nests, roosts, rests and dropping boards; painting them with Lee's Lice Killer; greasing hens' heads; dusting them with Lambert's Death to Lice, a pound to a dozen fowls, and again with sulphur and carbolic acid within a week or so; painting roosts and boards again in 10 days from first; keeping fowls from former day time haunts—all to find right afterward that there were still plenty of lice on the fowls. They have at least four breeds of lice, but my most careful observation has failed to discover any but the mites anywhere but on the fowls or in the sitting hens' nests.—Abbie E. C. Lathrop, Granby, Mass.

My roosts are all 2 x 4 scantling, placed with the 4-inch side up. Then there is a strip 4 inches wide, half inch thick, placed on top. Neither scantling nor strip must be planed. This, of course, affords a handy place for the lice to harbor during the day. Now once a week or so, during hot weather, I lift off the strip on top of roost, turn it upside down, and lay it on the dropping board. If there are any lice in your poultry house you will surely find them there. I then take my sprayer and fill it with the following liquid: I have a large, 2-gallon glass bottle, in which I put some carbolic soap; then one pound crude naphthalene flakes, and one gallon of coal oil. I leave this stand for 24 to 36 hours, until sufficiently strong, or until a sufficient quantity of the flakes and soap have dissolved. I then fill my sprayer with the pure liquid, being careful not to stir up the flakes from the bottom. I now spray the roosts and strip, and in one minute every louse that the spray reaches is dead. At the same time the strong odor that arises from the roosts kills the large lice on the fowl during the night. Of course, it is well to white-wash the inside of the house to make it light and cheerful. The dust bath is necessary.—W. J. Gordon, Pickering, Ont., Canada.

Never troubled with lice. I clean house every day, cover floor and roosts with ashes.—Mrs. Phelps, Climax, Mich.

Dust thoroughly with fresh Buhach (insect powder, grown and manufactured at Stockton, Calif.) Scald roosts with hot water, and use Lee's Lice Killer. Very successful.—H. Van Valkenburgh, Shardon, Calif.

Naphthalene and kerosene. Good.—H. Reed Hawley, Staatsburg, N. Y.

Use about one ounce crude carbolic oil to one quart kerosene oil. With this mixture I spray interior of houses and nests. Also apply with brush where mites are very thick. Dust nests with Lambert's Death to Lice, and dust the birds with the same. Clean dropping boards every day and keep plenty of dry, clean dirt on floor. It is important to watch under side of perches

for that is where the mites congregate. It is also very important to have the perches planed smooth on all sides so as not to furnish lodging places for them. As long as I disinfect and clean faithfully I find no great trouble from lice.—H. S. Thompson, Stratford, Ct. My method, which has been entirely successful so far, and I have watched carefully for lice, has been to quarantine each new comer and keep him covered with insect powder for a few days. I use no kerosene or anything else except that I keep about six inches of very fine sifted coal ashes on the floor of my coops. In dusting themselves the hens dust the whole house, and this fine ashes penetrates every crevice. So far, I have never, to my knowledge, had a louse in my house.—Jay Cooke Howard, Duluth, Minn.

No. 2.

In raising Leghorns or any of the Mediterranean breeds, what do you do when the wing feathers grow so rapidly that the chicks droop?

Have only had two or three this year out of 350 chicks raised.—H. Van Valkenburgh.

I am especially concerned in the reply to No. 2, as it is evident that others who are raising Leghorns are having the same trouble that I supposed was peculiar to my chicks—that is the overgrowth of the wing feathers, and the drooping of the chick till it dies. It has seemed to me that this condition occurs most frequently, if not altogether, with those chicks that seem below par in vitality when hatched. All the chicks I have this season were incubator-hatched, and the earlier ones have done much better in this respect. The last hatching appeared deficient in vitality, did not grow well, while many of them developed this wing peculiarity and soon died. I certainly have no remedy to suggest.—C. A. Young, Prescott, Wis. Drooping of wings is not caused by overgrowth, but by improper treatment, such as crowding at night, small range, poor feeding and lice. This class of fowls, in my experience, are very sure.—W. J. Gordon.

I just think the chick is not thriving, else its body would grow sufficiently to sustain the feathers.—Abbie E. C. Lathrop.

The wing feathers of Leghorn chicks will not droop, unless something is wrong—most always lice.—Samuel Sear.

In raising Leghorns, I feed plenty of nourishing food, such as cornmeal, bran, middlings, Animal Meal, Sheridan's Condition Powder, mixed together and scalded, then steamed. Have little trouble with drooping wings.—Winfield Darling.

Clip them with a scissors.—J. C. Cloud. I clip them, but it is better to keep the chicks in a thriving condition so they will not droop.—No Name.

No. 3.

What six rules do you find the most important in successful poultry culture?

Promptness (I mean this to apply to everything—in feeding, cleaning and

in guarding against enemies. Defer nothing when the time comes for its performance). Cleanliness (referring to drinking fountains, feed troughs and houses). Fight lice always. Guarding against disease. Guarding against overcrowding. Roomy, dry, well ventilated quarters. Proper food at proper times, and in proper quantities.—No Name.

Regularity in feeding. Cleanliness in runs and feeding troughs. Plenty of exercise. Avoid damp roosts. Provide good dust baths. Above all things plenty of fresh water; in hot weather changing two or three times a day.—J. C. Cloud.

Light and comfortable houses during the Winter, but not too warm. Keep the house about 28 degrees or cooler at night. Plenty of fresh air during the day. A variety of feed in proper quantities; mash in the morning. Plenty of fresh, cold water, grit, oyster shell and green food; plenty of exercise and clean houses; earth floors in houses, dry and kept well dug up. Kindness. Careful attention in selecting breeders.—W. J. Gordon.

Keep fowls free from vermin. Keep houses, roosts and nests clean. Keep fountains clean and supplied with fresh water. Keep plenty of sharp gravel before them. Keep chickens busy. Give fresh green bone and green food, and morning mash for hens.—H. Van Valkenburgh.

Have good, fresh eggs for incubating, or good, strong breeding stock. Keep all your houses and coops perfectly dry. Use V-shaped troughs for all food except what goes into the scratching shed. Do not allow ground in any run to become sodden with filth. Spade often and sow to rye if possible. Plenty of warmth for the little chicks and no drafts for the fowls must be your cold weather motto. In Summer abundance of shade and water with open front roosting houses. Lay out your work ahead. Be a crank, if you must, but be systematic.—H. S. Thompson.

Cleanliness, care, proper food and feeding, pure water, and good place to sleep in.—Mrs. Phelps.

Keep one pure breed. Watch the fowls carefully. Make slight variation in feed when fowls are not doing their best. Keep a strictly correct account of all receipts and expenditures, including record of eggs gathered daily, and all fowls used in the family. Study the account.—W. H. Bishop, Newark, Del.

Good stock, good food, clean pure water, exercise, and plenty of attention.—Alex. Weigand.

Good stock, proper food, pure water, clean dry warm quarters, constant attention, exercise in Winter, grass run in Summer.—Jas. S. Nicholson.

Cleanliness, housing, feeding, never doctor, mating, selling good goods.—P. H. George.

No. 4.

In market culture, what branch do you make the specialty—eggs, broilers or roasters—and why?

Eggs and broilers; requiring less house room than for roasters. The best

roaster brings no more per pound here than a two-pound broiler at the same time.—Abbie E. C. Lathrop.

Specialty eggs and poultry for the table; have a small lot and large family.—J. C. Cloud.

Broilers, because most profitable here. Will try capons this year.—No Name. Eggs. They are sure.—H. Reed Hawley.

Eggs. 240 miles to San Francisco to market.—H. Van Valkenburgh.

Eggs at present.—Mrs. Phelps.

All branches. There is profit in both eggs and broilers, but as I wish to continually improve my stock I must keep a considerable number of cockerels up to the roaster age, to enable me to make careful selection of the best for breeding purposes.—W. H. Bishop. Eggs; better market.—Alex. Weigand. Eggs; more profit here (Canada).—Jas. S. Nicholson.

Eggs and roasters, because I get 25 cts. per dozen in Summer, and 35 to 50 cents in Winter for eggs, and 15 cts. per pound for 6 to 10 pound roasters.—P. H. George.

No. 5.

What breeds do you keep, and why do you prefer them to others?

I keep the Barred Plymouth Rocks, White Wyandottes, S. C. Buff Leghorn.—Winfield Darling.

Light Brahmas, because they lay well and grow large.—P. H. George.

Barred Rocks—good layers, good mothers, good eating—and, good enough.—Jas. S. Nicholson.

Barred Plymouth Rocks and S. C. Brown Leghorns. The former make good mothers, while the latter lay more eggs.—Alex. Weigand.

Rhode Island Reds only. One breed is enough. These fowls are good layers (nine laid 150 eggs each in 1899), the carcass is large enough for sale anytime after the chick is 8 or 10 weeks old. The quality of meat is good. The fowls are strong and healthy at all ages after getting out of shell. They are handsome fowls.—W. H. Bishop.

Prefer Buff Leghorn or a cross.—Mrs. Phelps.

Single Comb Brown Leghorn for Summer laying, and Barred Plymouth Rocks for Winter laying. Prefer dark colors on account of hawks and coyotes.—H. Van Valkenburgh.

Barred and White Plymouth Rocks. Never tried any others.—H. Reed Hawley.

Barred Plymouth Rocks. Because they cannot well be better for broilers and they have a widespread reputation and are taken first in the markets here.—No Name.

Plymouth Rocks. Believe them a first-class fowl for both table use and egg production.—J. C. Cloud.

Wyandottes; preferred to Leghorns because better Winter layers when eggs are high, and when eggs are low they can be hatched into chicks for market. Preferred to Brahmas, because eggs are more apt to hatch.—Abbie E. C. Lathrop.

No. 6.

What experience have you had with trap nests, and what make of nests do you use?

Trap nests are a good thing. Use Mr. MacWilliams, of Chicago. Easy to make, inexpensive, and easy to keep clean.

—Samuel Sear.

The best marked hens are the poorest layers. Use Successful trap nest.—H. Reed Hawley.

Trap nests are good. Use my own make. Lots of trouble.—P. H. George.

Have had 5 months' experience with trap nests, and find them very interesting. None would hardly think there was such a difference in a pen of hens. I use the Advance nest.—Winfield Darling.

No. 7.

In using trap nests, what per cent. of eggs have you found outside of the nests on the floor, on the dropping boards or in the runs?

I find a very small per cent. of eggs outside of the nests, mostly on the dropping boards early in the morning. Seldom any outside unless the nests are occupied.—Winfield Darling.

No eggs in runs or on floor, excepting when pullets begin.—P. H. George.

I don't know what per cent., but in a flock of 50, some weeks none, and other weeks from 3 to 8 eggs.—Samuel Sear.

No. 8.

What success have you had this year in hatching and rearing chicks by hens? Have results been as good as they were last year? If not, to what cause do you attribute your losses?

Have raised 350 chicks from 372 hatched, results being about the same as last year.—H. Van Valkenburgh.

Hens hatch out well if all the conditions are fulfilled. If the hens do not leave the nests too long, if they do not tread on the chicks, if they are not lousy, and if they do not lead them through the wet grass, you may raise some fine fowls in the old way. But once the details are mastered, I think there is no doubt the artificial method is the best.—H. S. Thompson.

Have had better results with hens this year than by artificial means. Had better results last year with brooders. My losses in former years have been caused principally by lice. My house for incubator is not well ventilated, and later hatches were weak from being overheated during last week of incubation.—Mrs. Tilla Leach.

This year I have had the worst of success with my February hatch by incubators. Out of 120 eggs I only got 6 chicks. On the 24th day I put out lamps and broke eggs. There were 90 fine grown and lively chicks in them, but they would not come out. I afterwards set 7 hens on 13 eggs each. One hen changed her mind and would not sit. The 6 others gave me 75 fine chicks.—W. J. Gordon.

Have had better success raising chicks with hens this year than last owing to better stock.—Abbie E. C. Lathrop.

Fairly good results; about same as last year.—J. C. Cloud.

Hatched 85 per cent., raised 65 per cent. Not as good as last year, due to bowel trouble.—Alex. Weigand.

Had poor success with earliest sittings, because my room was too cold and nests not well made. With April and May chicks hatching was good; with the exception of last brood there were practically no deaths nor sickness. Out of my last hatch I lost fully one-half, caused by injudicious feeding the first few days. I gave raw soft food, middlings, bran and dried fish mash, such as I was feeding hens, and a diarrhoea ensued.—W. H. Bishop.

Poor success this year. Bowel trouble depleted my poor hatches. Cause unknown.—No. Name.

Not quite a fair success this season. Poor accommodations and bad sitters.—Jas. S. Nicholson.

No. 9.

Have you ever made the comparison of natural and artificial methods in hatching and rearing chicks? If so, what have been your conclusions?

Last year machines and brooders did better than hens, and both did fairly well. This year hens did best, though both did badly. Bowel trouble and gapes are the worst foes.—No. Name. Yes; prefer artificial incubation.—J. C. Cloud.

Yes; last year used a \$5.00 Bantam which did finely, and gave me such a good opinion of incubators that I wanted a larger one. Sold the little one and bought a 120-egg C—. Eggs under hens set same time as incubator, and from same hens, hatched remarkably well, yet this incubator could not bring off a fair hatch. I think a good machine altogether preferable to hens, especially quite early in the season, but a poor machine is a heavy loss.—Abbie E. C. Lathrop.

If a person is only going to raise from 150 to 200 chicks, the hen is by far the most successful way, providing you have a proper place for your hens and coops. But, of course, it all depends on the amount of brains and judgment a man has—in either method. But with a little insect powder, proper feed, attention and room, the chicks will grow in spite of you. One usually starts the Fall before with his breeders to insure success with his incubators and raising of chickens in the Spring.—W. J. Gordon.

Incubators are not always infallible, but in the long run they beat the old hen. They are not lousy, never walk on the chicks, work as well if not better in Winter than in Summer, and a 200-egg machine will not worry you as much as three sitting hens. I assume, of course, that you understand the machine thoroughly. Brooders have their faults, but take them all in all, and they are preferable to the hen. They are handier to get at, keep the chicks dry and safe from cats and rats, and ought not to be lousy.—H. S. Thompson.

Have never used incubators. Those hereabouts don't raise as many chicks with incubators as we do with hens.—H. Van Valkenburgh.

Hens do better for me, as I cannot give regular attention.—H. Reed Hawley. Tried artificial incubation this season for the first time. Could not hatch as many from the same number of fertile

eggs by two-thirds, as by natural means. Can raise them fully as well with less trouble than with hens.—Samuel Sear.

No. 10.

Are you troubled with rats, cats, skunks, weasels, minks, hawks or crows? What do you consider, from experience, to be the best methods of preventing their visits, or getting rid of them if they do come?

We have had some trouble with cats. My observation has assured me that the variety we term Maltese—identified by their uniform drab color, and which are quite plentiful with us—has a strong prediction for the catching of birds, though, as a rule, are not good mousers. Where birds are not convenient they have no objection to satisfy hunger with chickens. We have ceased having Maltese cats about our premises, as we have been compelled to destroy too many for pleasure because of their depredations on our neighbor's poultry. In your list of the enemies of chicks you have failed to include the only one besides the cat that has given us any trouble, and that is the Blue Jay. We have for long endeavored to domesticate such birds as are inclined to visit this hyperborean region, and the Jays were especially welcome as most of them remained during the Winter—the only birds except the English Sparrow that did this. We knew they had the bad reputation

Trap Nest Plans 15 cts. H. M. Doty, Chatham, N. Y.

ADVANCE Trap Nest. Once tried, always used. Circular free. W. Darling, So. Setauket, L. I., N. Y.

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Buff and Partridge Wyandottes, Buff and Barred Plymouth Rocks, Buff and White Leghorns, Buff Cochins, Rose, Single and Pea Comb Rhode Island Reds. Old and young stock for sale. No more eggs for sale until 1901. Rowland G. Buffinton, Fall River, Mass. Box 677.



has no frills. Plain and practical. Costs less and requires less attention than any other. Write. F. O. WELLCOME, Yarmouth, Me.

of destroying the eggs and young of other birds, but did not know, till they had killed a couple of dozen of our finest chicks (some twice their size) that they carried this sanguinary disposition into the chicken yard. Since we learned that the Jays were aiding the cats in thinning out our poultry, we have done some decided thinning out among our domesticated Jays.—C. A. Young.

Dogs keep cats away, and poison kills rats.—P. H. George.

Have had a great deal of trouble in former years with rats, minks, etc., but procured a small dog and for the past two seasons have had no trouble; do not have to shut up chicks at night.—Mrs. Tilla Leach.

Cats. 22 calibre rifle.—Jas. S. Nicholson. Coyotes, hawks; occasionally skunks and stray cats. Two trained dogs give chase at first warning the rooster gives. Also use poison and shoot them.—H. Van Valkenburgh.

Place fine mesh chicken wire under all your houses, and if you know a rat or a mouse is around use one of the spring wire traps that sell for 10 or 15 cents. A shot gun is the only cure for a cat that kills chickens. Never was troubled by skunks or other vermin.—H. S. Thompson.

Find King birds are the poultry keepers' best friend where there are hawks.—Abbie E. S. Lathrop.

Cats have taken many this year, but have used the shot gun and laid several of them away. Have done the same thing with hawks and crows, the latter being worse this year. The first sign of a rat gives notice for all traps to be set, and he is soon caught.—No Name.

With proper fences, well protected at the bottom, and a good trap and gun, I can protect my fowls.—W. J. Gordon.

NO. 11.

What has been your experience in matings this year—that is, how many females have you allowed each male (naming breed) and what success have you had in fertility of eggs?

20 females to 2 males, changing males every day. Fertility by this method was very high.—J. C. Cloud.

10 Wyandottes and 15 Brahma-Leghorn hens to Wyandotte cockerels gave excellent results. Very early in season allowed only 8 per cockerel.—Abbie E. C. Lathrop.

Have had good success with 12 hens to a rooster in Plymouth Rocks. 18 hens to rooster in Leghorns.—H. Van Valkenburgh.

Best pen had 16 pullets and one-year old cock. Eggs ran very fertile.—H. Reed Hawley.

One breeding pen of 1 cock and 3 pullets, only one or two eggs not fertile.—Jas. S. Nicholson.

I usually mate about 12 females to one male (Barred Plymouth Rocks). Eggs run very fertile, but were not so good early in season, because most of my pullets were June and July hatch.—Mrs. Tilla Leach.

20 hens and 2 cocks; 85 per cent. fertile.—P. H. George.

12 females to 1 male (Leghorn). Alex. Weigand.

Kept 1 cockerel (Rhode Island Red) with about 7 hens, and I believe the eggs were fully 90 per cent. fertile.—W. H. Bishop.

23 White Wyandotte hens to 2 cockerels; 16 Buff Rock hens to 1 cockerel. Wyandotte eggs 90 per cent. fertile; Rock eggs 60 per cent.—W. H. Card.

20 pullets to one cock.—C. D. Pantler. I mated 8 hens to a cock in Brahmas, Wyandottes and Bantams. Wyandotte and Bantam eggs were about 90 per cent. fertile; Brahma eggs 40 per cent. But this was the fault of the cock. Eight to twelve males is all right for Brahmas; 10 to 15 for Wyandottes or Leghorns.—Emory E. Banks.

My experience is that 6 to 8 hens of the Leghorn class is sufficient for one cock, and from 4 to 6 hens of the American class. The fertility of the eggs from fowls confined in pens is very uncertain, if kept penned without change of cock bird. Eggs from penned fowls with same cock hardly average 50 per cent. of fertility, while from a flock of 150 or more at large, with 10 or 12 cocks, the average is 75 to 80 per cent. fertility.—L. J. Ryerson.

Allowed 8 to one male. Fertility, fair early, to first-class later.—Wm. E. Anderson.

Rhode Island Reds—12 to one male.—E. R. Reid.

25 hens and three roosters. No two roosters out at the same time. Each takes his turn to be out with the hens. Each is out one day in three. Forty-six eggs fertile out of fifty; 30 out of 30; 11 out of 12.—A. DeR. Meares.

Two Single Comb White Leghorn cockerels with 25 hens; 13 infertile eggs out of 1,312.—J. W. Strowbridge.

18 White Wyandotte hens to 3 cocks, each having two days' rest. Good

success. Ditto Buff Wyandottes, only two cocks run together; poor luck; found former method best.—J. W. McCarty.

A strong, vigorous male bird mated to 10 or 12 females (like Wyandottes). Fertility good.—Irving C. Hutchins.

This season I had two pens of Single Comb White Leghorns—one pen of 25 females with one male. In March from this pen I had 80 per cent. fertility. From the same pen in April I set 4 hens, 13 eggs each, and got only 22 chicks. April, from the same pen, I put 90 eggs in my incubator and received 60 chicks. From a pen of White Wyandottes, 15 hens and one cock, in

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March I put 110 eggs from these pens—60 Leghorns and 50 Wyandottes, and got 50 Leghorns and 30 Wyandottes. A pen of 34 hens, Wyandottes, and 2 males, gave 70 per cent. fertility.—J. A. Ainge.

One Andalusian and one Cochín cock to 30 females gives high fertility.—B. A. R. Stocker.

White Wyandottes; our matings of pullets, fifteen to one cockerel, gave 75 per cent. or more fertile, but did not hatch well, many dying in all stages of incubation. We had two pens this Spring of one 2-year old rooster mated to 12 two-year old hens. These eggs were nearly all fertile and hatched extra well.—J. W. Bromley & Son.

20 hens (grade Brahmas) to one 2-year old Light Brahma (light weight male—Eaton Bros.) 80 per cent. or so fertile; vigorous chicks.—C. A. French.

Wyandottes, 12 hens; Leghorns, 19. Had fair hatches.—W. W. Osgood.

11 hens (about 19 months' old) to one 9-month cockerel on about the first of May. Hatched 11, 12 and 13 out of sittings of 13 eggs; nearly two-thirds pullets, good, strong and active S. C. Brown Leghorns.—Matt G. Robson.

Nine to thirteen White Wyandotte females to one male has given good results, fertility running high.—Robert Atkins.

I use a cock two days, then a cockerel two days, with a pen of 13 Cochín hens. Eggs hatched well; fertility nearly 100 per cent. The cockerel was over a year old, and therefore a cock before the season was over. But the fertility was as high before he was a year old. Earlier in the season I had the same males with a pen of 12 hens, and had good hatches until they both got their combs frozen. For a time they were nearly useless, but I got them into shape again before I put them with the pen first alluded to, from which I sold eggs to set. A neighbor of mine had one Barred Plymouth Rock cock running with 60 hens and got 9 chicks from 13 eggs. He got 36 eggs one day but I don't know how many hens were laying out of the lot; over half, evidently. He had poor hatch of eggs he bought, and then tried his own.—S. P. D.

One cock to about 15 hens, Barred Plymouth Rocks. High fertility.—M. A. Summers.

Leghorns, 10 females to 1 male; fertility extra good after running out on ground.—William A. Penfield.

No. 12.

What does it cost you, per year, to keep a hen, and what average profit do you have per head? 80 cents. Profit, \$2.20 per head.—Wm. A. Penfield.

Costs, about 50 cents per head; profit, the same.—M. A. Summers.

In 1898, the cost was \$17.62 for feed, grit, etc.; \$7.82 for wire netting, etc.; total, \$25.44. I received for chickens sold to butcher, by weight, \$18.14; eggs, \$18.59; total, \$36.73. Not counting eggs and roosters we used in the house. Had 25 hens and 3 roosters. In 1899, January 1, had 33 hens and pullets, and 4 cockerels. Sold some hens, making the average 20 hens for the year. Paid for feed, etc., \$24.11; received for eggs,

\$23.63; chickens, \$6.00. Jan. 1 to May 1, 1900, feed, \$9.60; cash received, \$17.04.—Matt G. Robson.

Cannot tell, as young and old eat together; but, from November 1 to April 1, had \$1 clear profit per head, approximately, on eggs; while they were shut up last Winter, 1 3-8th cts. per week fed them.—Chas. A. French.

We feed our hens and chickens from one supply of grain, so cannot tell how much it costs to keep one hen alone. Our net profit, per hen, including sales of poultry, eggs and chickens, for the last six years, on an average has been \$2.13. We conduct our plant for market purposes almost wholly.—J. W. Bromley & Son.

Can't figure that out, but generally get 50 to 100 per cent. profit on whatever they cost me.—B. A. R. Stocker.

Cost, per year, 75 cents per head; profit last year, \$1.20 per head. This year it will not be as good; no better prices for eggs or stock, and feed 20 per cent. higher.—J. A. Ainge.

It costs me fully a dollar apiece to feed my hens a year, possibly a little over. It depends altogether what kind of a market you have for your eggs. At \$2 for 15 eggs during hatching season, the profit would be enormous. At an average price through the year of 25 cents per dozen, a profit of \$1.50 each.—Irving C. Hutchins.

Cost about \$1.20; profit, \$2 per head. Sell eggs for hatching in Spring and stock in Fall.—J. W. McCarty.

Cost from November 1, 1899, to July 1, 1900, 65 cents; profit, 71 cents. This with 144 hens hatched July 29th, 1899. First egg January 24, 1900.—J. W. Strowbridge.

About one dollar, but might be a little more. Could reduce expense if I grew some feed at home.—E. R. Reid.

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are the best, by far the best. From a scientific point of view they are the most intelligently built for perfect heating, regulating and ventilating. From a practical point of view, they are best, because they hatch more and stronger chicks. We can't tell just **why** here; but send for our catalogue. It will interest you.

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During season of 1899, from January 1, 1899, to January 1, 1900, with a flock of 160 mongrel hens, most of them 3, 4 and 5 years' old, the average egg yield was 6 3-4 dozen per hen. Average price received was 20 cents per dozen. The cost for food for each hen was 74 cents; net profit, per head, 61 cents.—L. J. Ryerson.

Should figure the average cost of keeping a hen at 75 cents to \$1 per year, although I have kept them at much less and made \$1 per head.—Emory E. Banks.

Cost of keep, per hen, during 1899, \$1.50; profit, per hen, \$1.27.—W. H. Card.

Can answer better next January. For March, April, May, June and July of this year, cost has varied from 5 1-2 to 9 cents per month, per hen.—W. H. Bishop.

Costs me 50 cents to keep a hen a year, and average profit one dollar.—Alex Weigand.

Last year, cost per hen, 93 cents for feed; 6 cents for other expenses. Net profit, 49 cents. Think I did not feed quite enough.—Abbie E. C. Lathrop.

Cost to keep a hen, per year, 90 cents. Profit, per hen, per year, \$1.00.—J. C. Cloud.

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EDITORIAL.

Fall Trade. Advertising for Fall trade is now in order. Get your copy ready and be early in the field. Remember that this is Presidential campaign year, and during the latter part of October and in early November, business is apt to be dull. People will be too full of politics to bother about anything else. The wise man begins his advertising in September, and if you are not in this issue it is to be regretted, for the "early bird catches the worm."

Should you have been unfortunate enough to miss this number, do not delay to send in time for October.

Bear in mind that all advertisements for October, must be in the hands of the publishers at Boston, not later than October 5th, to insure insertion.

We hardly need remind you that advertising in A FEW HENS is a profitable investment. If you ever tried it you will know. There is no other poultry paper like A FEW HENS. The size of the paper, the low price of subscription, and the manner in which the contents is gotten up and presented to the readers not only guarantees thorough reading of every page, but each and every number is carefully preserved for future reference. A FEW HENS is an encyclopedia of poultry knowledge.

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Their Opinion. John L. Grattan, Ph. G., Cohoes, N. Y.: "In my opinion A FEW HENS is the most common sense, bright, newsy and crispy little booklet that has ever come into my hands, and I've had quite a few. I look forward to the 15th of each month with as much interest as I do the day I expect a hatch. Believe me an ardent advocate of your policy and your paper."

James D. Davis, Tionesta, Pa.: "A FEW HENS improves with each issue."

M. Geo. Blakely, St. Johnsbury, Vt.: "I have been a subscriber to A FEW HENS for three years, beginning August,

1897, and could not get along without it. It is a boiled down journal, sharp and to the point—just the proper paper for a busy man."

J. A. Warren, Lutherville, Md.: "Am much pleased with the prospects which loom up in our Brevity Symposium, which you are anticipating reestablishing. If any of my experiences would be of interest will be glad to place them at your disposal." (That's just what we want—everybody's experience.—EDITOR).

Chas. F. Poor, Tapleville, Mass.: "I cannot help liking A FEW HENS every time it comes. I receive four or five papers monthly, and with the exception of one your paper is a jewel in itself."

A. DeR. Meares, Hyattsville, Md.: "Am glad the Symposium will be a permanent feature."

Capt. Joseph B. Eakins, New York City: "A FEW HENS ought to be successful. It is full of the subject nearest my heart, and seemed to be printed especially for my benefit."

J. E. Richards, Cleveland, O.: "Your paper is perused with more interest than any of the five I take."

Dr. S. A. Wilhelm, Clarion, Pa.: "I am a reader of A FEW HENS, and believe you are on the right track—utility first, the rest follows."

Emory E. Banks, in *Practical Poultryman*: "'Uncle Mike' Boyer's egg contest at his experimental farm, grows more interesting with each issue of his valuable little paper, A FEW HENS. A White Plymouth Rock hen takes the lead, so far laying 72 eggs in five months. The second is a Light Brahma following closely with 71 eggs, the next is a White Wyandotte with 70 to her credit, and so on down to a Rhode Island Red laying 40 eggs. The most of the other Brahmas and White Rocks seem to be pretty well up, and we are in hopes the Brahmas will win."

"It is needless to say 'Uncle Mike' is a great utility crank, and he used to advocate crossbreds before fanciers gave much attention to utility, but now it is different, and he says that crossbreds are becoming obsolete."

Symposium Questions. The following questions have been sent

for Symposium department, and we hope our readers will promptly send us answers to same. Interest in this department seems to be increasing, and certainly a host of information is gathered from the numerous replies received. Keep it up. We want A FEW HENS to be its readers' paper—not only to read, but a medium through which they can give their experiences. Questions for this department will always be welcomed, and published in the order in which they are received:

19. How many hens do you keep in a house 14 x 20 feet?

20. Would you advise to build a house 100 feet long, or divide it up in different rooms apart from each other?

21. Have you ever been troubled with bed bugs in your hen house—if so, how did you get rid of them?

22. What has been the largest number of hens you have run in a single flock,

and what success did you have with them?

23. Do you know of any successful hatches from eggs imported from England?

24. Are late hatches, as a rule, successful, and how should they be handled?

Here is a correction we wish to make:

In the August number of A FEW HENS, we made Wm. G. Good say: "For hawks or crows, hang up some red pieces of cloth in the form of a flag, where your children mostly gather." It should have read: "Where your chickens mostly gather."

\$1,400 Wm. H. Welsh, Wayne, Pa., House. sends us the ground plan of a poultry house built by Mrs. Geo. W. Childs Drexel, about five miles below Wayne. It cost \$1,400. Lined inside with yellow pine, running up and down, while the outside boarding runs lengthwise.

The building is 40 x 60 feet, and contains roosting and laying rooms, hatching quarters, feed room, hospital, and an extra room for use of fowls in Winter. This room is heated by a stove. In front of the roosting room is an open shed for fowls to roost in during the Summer. It is all very nice—handsome and all that—but an up-to-date practical poultryman would have spent that \$1,400 to better advantage. Much money is often needlessly thrown away on poultry buildings when put up by inexperienced people.

Curious Disease. W. V. Russ, of the Excel-sior Poultry Supply Co., New York City, sends us the following clipping from a Plainfield, N. J., publication:

"Farmers living in the vicinity of Avon Park and Oak Tree, are complaining of a peculiar disease which has attacked their poultry. It is different than any disease they have had to deal with, and they are unable to explain it."

"The affected fowl, while apparently in good health, suddenly becomes dizzy and starts to turn around. It then falls to the ground in a rigid condition and dies. When picked up the feathers come out. Great numbers of them have died within the past week, and it is still ravaging poultry yards."

We are inclined to think that the symptoms are extravagantly given, much of it, no doubt, has been the imagination of an enterprising newspaper writer. We believe the trouble is vertigo, the blood rushing to the head making the fowl dizzy. In extreme cases it is accompanied by apoplexy, in which event the fowl dies. There is nothing new nor peculiar to the disease, the symptoms being well known to old and experienced poultrymen.

McNally Hen. In last issue we referred to the current report of the

suddenly famous hen of Mrs. McNally, and mentioned that now the Rhode Island Experiment Station was going to investigate the matter. Since then we have received the following clipping from J. A. Warren, late in charge of the poultry division of the Rhode Island College. The extract is

taken from the Bristol *Phoenix*, which shows how well a joke was carried, and how gullible some people are:

"When in Bristol a few days ago Prof. Field of the Rhode Island College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, related a personal experience which doubtless accounts for the sudden ending of the interesting fairy tale concerning Mrs. McNally's hen which had been continued so long in the Providence Journal. The stories of the alleged phenomenal productiveness of eggs by this much-talked-of fowl had been noticed by Prof. Field, but he had given them little attention until a prominent citizen of Kingston requested him to look into the case as an expert on biology. Accordingly Prof. Field, accompanied by several students of the college, whom he thought might be interested in the matter, went to the place where Mrs. McNally's hen had been astonishing the natives and others by her fabulous feats of egg-laying.

"On his arrival Prof. Field was assured by Mrs. McNally and many others, who claimed to have positive proof of the truth of what they said, that the fowl was certainly a wonder. He was told that it was a fact beyond question that this hen did not consider she had done a day's work unless she had laid at least a half-dozen eggs, and that a full dozen was not beyond the range of her possibilities in 24 hours. Prof. Field, being a scientific man, was naturally not convinced by the evidence of the senses of other people, and he was still more doubtful when the large quantity of eggs said to be the product of the feathered prodigy was shown him. His discerning eye noted that the eggs were of all sizes, shapes and colors, details he had never observed in the egg litter of any other hen. He was also astonished to find that the eggs said to have been laid within a few days weighed considerably more than the hen which was held responsible for them. Without expressing his doubts, however, he and his students repaired to the hen house and with many others watching the hen all day, having taken the precaution to secure a key and lock the door securely. Strangely enough the wonderful bird showed no inclination to go near the nest that day. Not discouraged, however, the professor and his pupils determined to continue their vigil, and next day the hen in the presence of a crowd of watchers, went on to the nest. The spectators watched the hen breathlessly, some of them expecting no doubt to see her raised bodily above the level of the nest by the sudden release of the accumulation of eggs due to her one day's vacation. This did not occur, but nevertheless the hen maintained her reputation, for, after she had emerged cackling, six eggs were found in the nest that was empty before she entered it.

All the spectators except those from Kingston were jubilant over this apparent vindication of the hen's prowess, but Prof. Field had an explanation which cooled the ardor of the fowl's admirers considerably. He told the following facts: On the previous day the students who were with Prof. Field had been doing a little skirmish duty around

the hennery, and had discovered a small door in the back of the house in close proximity to the nest used by the famous hen. While the hen was on the nest one of his pupils opened this door and succeeded in placing five eggs under the hen without being discovered by the watchers. The sixth egg he held the hen accountable for. Next day there was no McNally hen story in the Journal.

Prof. Field took the hen to Kingston and kept her five days, during which time she laid 4 eggs. He says he does not wish to throw any aspersions on either the ready writer of the Journal's eggs stories or Mrs. McNally, and consequently he states that it is possible that the change of environment may account for the sudden ending of the hen's record-breaking fecundity.

Practical Six years ago, William Poultry, Watmore, of Lenola, New

Jersey, purchased a pair or trio of Barred Plymouth Rock chicks, and carried them home in his coat pockets. From that small beginning he established his present poultry farm. Mr. Watmore believes in the practical side of poultry culture, and each year breeds from his best layers.

Mr. Watmore's poultry farm is not what might be called a large plant, but for its size it certainly does a large business. Eggs, broilers, roasters and green ducks are his specialties, and when the present season closes he will have raised fully 2300 birds.

The plant consists of 5 1-4 acres of high, dry land, sloping on the Southwest to a large creek. The duck house is 80 feet long, with yards 150 feet long, running out into the creek. There are 80 feet of scratching shed houses, and one house 12 x 16 feet, with loft for storing scratching material.

There is also a 50-foot brooder house, heated with hot water pipe system, besides there are 8 outside brooders utilized. The incubator house is above ground, and is two stories high. The second story is utilized for drying feathers. Another 50-foot brooding house and a number of additional incubators are about to be added to the plant.

Last month the editor had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Watmore. He and his son paid us a visit, and a few hours were pleasantly and profitably spent. Mr. Watmore has a valuable assistant in his son, who, although quite a boy yet, is far advanced in poultry science, and would do credit to one twice his age.

Mr. Watmore told us that he was one of A FEW HENS' practical pupils, and that this paper was his sole guide. We are proud of such pupils.

In explaining the business methods of his farm he said that he disposed of nearly all his eggs to private trade, while all of the roasters, broilers and green

SCALY LEGS

on either young or old fowls, cured with a few applications of BANNER "B" OINTMENT. Easily applied and very effective. 25 cents per bottle postpaid. Our 125-page illustrated Poultry Supply Catalogue free. Send for one.

Excelsior Wire & Poultry Supply Co.,
26 and 28 Vesey St., New York City.
When writing kindly mention A Few Hens.

TABER'S

White WYANDOTTES P. ROCKS

are bred for utility as well as standard points. Eggs \$1.00 for 13; \$3.00 for 50. Young stock for sale. MAPLE GROVE POULTRY YARDS, S. A. TABER, Prop., (Alle. Co.) Pike, N. Y.

HOLMES' SPECIAL CONDITION POWDER FOR POULTRY.

I do confidently claim that this powder has no equal on the market for growing, moulting or laying fowl of all kind.

Editor H. W. Collingwood writes in March 3rd number of Rural New-Yorker: The powder was first fed February 6. Here is the egg record:

FEB.	HENS	DUCKS	FEB.	HENS	DUCKS
6	1	0	13	4	2
7	2	0	14	6	1
8	2	0	15	12	2
9	0	0	16	15	1
10	3	1	17	13	0
12	3	2	18	16	0

Well, now, there isn't any doubt about that gain. I have never before taken much stock in condition powders, but if in this case the powder didn't blow the laziness out of those hens, what did?

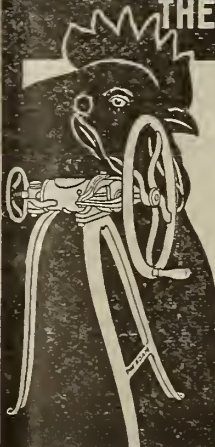
One pound can, 25 cents; by mail, postpaid, 40 cts. Five cans, t. o. b., Wethersfield, \$1. No stamps taken. Address, H. HOLMES, Wethersfield, Conn.

We Offer You a Great Opportunity

to secure profitable, thoroughbred breeding stock at low prices.

White Wyandottes, Barred Plymouth Rocks, Indian Games, Buff Wyandottes, White Plymouth Rocks, Buff Pekin Bantams.

Males, \$2.50; females, \$1.25; trios, \$4.00. Special prices for pens. Correspondence invited. HILLSIDE POULTRY FARM, Box 99, Highlandville, Mass.



THE ADAM GREEN BONE CUTTER

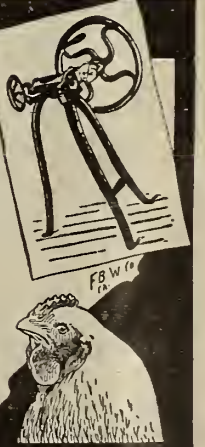
This is the Bone Gutter

—and indeed the only one which is equipped with ball bearings. That's why it runs so easily. It cuts on the shear plate principle. No gouging, crushing or breaking of bone into pieces or dangerous bone splinters.

Leaves a Shaving of Bone,

fine and easily consumed by fowl or chick. Easiest to clean — cleans itself. Feeds at will of operator. Strong and durable. Large capacity. Made in various sizes for hand and power. Write for our illustrated Catalogue No. 1, prices, etc.

W. J. ADAM, JOLIET, ILL.



ducks went direct to families. He is indeed fortunate in securing so extensive a custom, and certainly receives the cream of prices. His constant aim is not only to always have something to sell, but to have nothing but gilt-edged goods. When he secures a new customer he at once convinces them with his goods that they cannot afford to go elsewhere, and they do not. Poultry farms built on such a foundation are always sure to thrive.

If our readers will turn to Mr. Watmore's advertisement in this issue they will learn that both his Barred Plymouth Rocks and Pekin ducks are bred on practical lines from pedigreed layers. That they are bred and selected for practical purposes, from strong, vigorous stock. Last Spring we secured two sittings of eggs from Mr. Watmore's Barred Plymouth Rocks, and was surprised at the strong fertility, which we explained in a past issue. Today we have a pen of Barred Rock chicks, which, when sufficiently matured, will give us stock from which we expect to give some excellent accounts.

Mr. Watmore is on the right road. He will be heard from in the utility camp. He will be a living example of what a man can do in purely practical work.

More Records. The laying contest on A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm, which is given in each number of this paper, is attracting considerable attention. While we acknowledge that our hens are not breaking any records, nor are they doing any work beyond the ordinary, we believe we are setting the pace for a better understanding of the breeds, and the actual work of individual hens. The future will work a far different system in sales. Instead of fowls being bought on their score card record, they will be paid for according to their egg record, just the same as cows are purchased at their value for performance in the pail.

We would indeed be glad to publish the records of flocks that lay in trap nests, as it will give a better understanding, and will be conclusive evidence.

In our August number we gave the record of Barred Plymouth Rocks on the King Phillip Poultry Farm, Warren, R. I. (F. T. Estes, proprietor), up to August 1st. We now have the report from the same farm for the month of August, which we give below:

August report: 70 layers; three less than in July.

One year olds, 44 head, laid 501 eggs; average 11.39.

Two year olds, 26 head, laid 251 eggs; average 9.65.

Eleven odd eggs; total, 763; average per day, 24.6; average per hen, per day, .35; highest number laid in one day, 35; lowest number 18. Highest individual record for August, belongs to No. 162, which laid 23 eggs. 12 hens laid 15 eggs or over.

No. 162 laid 147 eggs to date; and 21 hens laid from 100 to 134 eggs each. No. 162 was hatched in May, 1899, and laid her first egg February 27, 1900.

This is a better record than is being done on A FEW HENS' Experimental

Farm. Mr. Estes is to be complimented for having such a fine flock of layers.

Trap Nests. It seems that every month come across something new in the trap nest line. We recently received two new trap nests from F. O. Wellcome, Yarmouth, Me., called the Ideal. We noticed them in our last issue. Since then we received catalogue and book of instructions from Mr. Wellcome, and can safely say that of all the nests on the market, none have so enterprising a champion as has the Ideal. A reading of the catalogue and book of instruction at once convinces you that there is a man behind the helm that is strictly business, and who is bound to make a big success of his invention.

In the catalogue, under the heading "What is the best trap nest," Mr. Wellcome gives some excellent pointers which are of interest and value:

"The best trap nest must be the one that, perfection of operation having been attained, can be produced and operated with the least expenditure of money and time, and occupy the least room in the poultry house.

"To give reliable information; knowledge that is knowledge; egg records that may not reach the 250 mark because they are accurate and guess work has been eliminated; pedigrees that shall have truth behind them and not exist on paper only; to remove from the not-over-particular assistant the temptation to deceive in order to hold his job and keep his employer in good temper; the trap nest must be accurate. In other words, it must be so constructed that it will not be occupied by more than one hen at one time, impossible for the hen to escape, or for her egg to be pulled out from the nest by a hen outside. While

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS. Pullets and cockerels at \$2 each, or \$5 for three. Grand layers, Michael K. Boyer, Hammonton, N. J.

GOING FAST. Banks' Light Brahmas, Buff Dotts, Buff Cochins Bantams. Breeders, \$1, \$1.50, \$2 each. About third value—to make room. Erie Poultry Yards, Box 168, Crittenden, N. Y.

PULLETS. Fifty White Wyandotte—B. P. Rock cross, April hatched pullets, at 75 cents each. Large, farm-raised birds from two of the best laying strains in the country. Perfect egg machines. LONG VIEW POULTRY FARM, Idlewild, N. Y.

A Bargain in Ginseng.

Change of residence compels me to sell my stock of seed-bearing Ginseng roots. These roots will be sold cheap, and in small lots, if desired. Write. G. E. BELDING, East Creek, N. Y.

YOUNG B. P. ROCK COCKERELS from pedigreed layers of a cockerel mating for sale at lower prices than later. Good ones at \$2.00 and up. Order or book your order now. W. R. HOBBIE, Kankakee, Illinois.

WE PRINT AND SEND BY MAIL

150 good, No. 6 1-2 White Envelopes for 50 cents.
150 Letter Heads, the very best of paper for 50 cents.
200 Business Cards for 50 cents.
THOS. J. BYRNES, Box 118, White Haven, Pa.

Closing Out PIT GAMES.

One cock, one year old, \$2.50; Hens, one and two years' old, \$1.00 each; trio young fowl, \$2.00; young cockerels, \$1.00 each.

C. G. LAXTER & SON, Merchantville, N. J.

WHITE WYANDOTTES

Standard bred Stock. Write for prices.

Cockerels and Pullets.

A. F. PUTNEY, So. Natick, Mass.

apparently simple, this quality of absolute accuracy has been really most difficult to obtain.

"At first thought it would seem that a simple door, which completely closes the entrance after the hen has entered, would ensure accuracy; but any thoughtful person will, upon reflection, see that were the problem so easy of solution there would be little demand for plans for building nest boxes, as almost any one of ordinary intelligence can get up a hen trap fitted with a door that will shut when a hen steps inside.

"The trap nest must not only be accurate, it must be safe—not only for the hen entering, but also for the hen that may be behind her attempting to enter at the same time, her head being in the way when the entrance becomes closed.

"If this entrance is completely closed by a door, this hen will 'get it in the neck.' If the door is light, she will perhaps be able to pull her head out and her owner be none the wiser. This might happen many times without the knowledge of the attendant; even if it

LEE'S LICE KILLER.

WM. GOWDY, Agent, Hammonton, N. J.

Poultry Plant for Rent

In Hammonton, N. J., a well equipped broiler farm, brooder house, 2000 capacity; incubator house (cellar) containing nine 300, and one 100-egg capacity incubators. Prairie State system throughout. Also barn, hen and chicken houses, and part of the fine residence. Full information will be given by MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.

Green Cut Clover

NIAGARA BRAND.

Best grade on the market. It is well known and endorsed by leading poultrymen. Cured very green. Cut in 1-8 in. lengths and screened to take out all long stems. No crop bound fowls when you use our Clover.

Niagara Poultry Food

Best balanced ration on the market yet for laying hens and growing chicks. Contains our Cut Clover, also best quality beef scraps and bone. A complete food. Try some and be convinced. \$1.50 per 100 lbs.; \$7.00 per 500 lbs. Prices to the trade. Samples and circulars free.

Specialty—Breeders of Mammoth Pekin Ducks, pure White Wyandottes, large Belgian Hares.

Write us if you want good stock or eggs.

W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

BIG BARGAINS!

We can spare some of our yearling stock, and offer the following:

Light Brahma cocks, \$3 each; hens, \$2.
White Plymouth Rock hens, \$2 each.
White Wyandotte hens, \$2 each.
S. C. White Leghorn cocks, \$2 and \$3 each.
Half grown S. C. W. Leghorn cockerels, \$1.50 each.
Supply limited. Address,
MICHAEL K. BOYER, Hammonton, N. J.

A NEW BOOK ON BELGIAN HARES

Belgian Hare Breeding.

This is a new treatise on the subject of breeding, care and general management of the Belgian Hare, including chapters on the construction of houses and hutches, diseases, marketing, judging by Standard requirements, etc. It is for the beginner and gives details that he must be familiar with to be successful. Price 25 Cents.

The FANCIERS' REVIEW has an up-to-date, original Belgian Hare Department. Subscription price 50 cts. a year, including the book FREE.

THE FANCIERS' REVIEW,
BOX 3, CHATHAM, N. Y.

does not injure the fowl, it may frighten her so that she will not feel inclined to repeat the experiment. No wonder the remark is so often made that it is 'considerable trouble to teach the hens to use them.' By watching such nests in actual operation, one may learn that trap devices operated by doors are sometimes undesirable even if accurate, which they seldom are, as the body of a second hen may prevent the door from closing until she, too, has entered the box.

"The trap nest should be as simple in construction as is consistent with accuracy, safety and convenience; large enough to give comfortable room for the hen, the egg protected from the cold in Winter by the warmth of her body and also inaccessible to other hens outside. The trap nest should not be so complicated that it cannot be cheaply made and yet be perfect in operation.

"It is a well known fact that a hen will some times go on the nest several hours before she lays and may remain several hours after laying; this frequently occurs when *open nests* are used. With the *trap nests* the hen is not confined as long as she stays on the nest *voluntarily*; her confinement begins when she wants to get out. Some poultrymen who honestly believe that the general use of trap nests is not practical (although they have never tried them) claiming that the confinement of the hens is cruel and would in time prove harmful, might not hesitate to reset a sitting hen once, or even twice, utterly regardless of cruel disappointments and long deferred hopes of expectant motherhood. A hen that will stay on a nest for three, six, or even nine weeks, incubating eggs, and survive the ordeal, will not be injured by any necessary confinement in a trap nest.

"In regard to the effect of this confinement on egg production, I can only say that as far as my experience goes, it has seemed to increase it. Hens that did not lay well as pullets with open nests, laid well their second year with traps.

"Hens three years old that used trap nests last year, have laid well this year with the traps still in use."

Advance Winfield Darling, South Nest. Setauket, L. I., the inventor of the Advance trap nest, paid A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm a visit the early part of this month. Some time ago Mr. Darling sent us one of his nests for trial, but it was so damaged in transit that we could not use it. Having notified him to that effect, he paid us this visit to repair the same and have a general chat on poultry topics.

The Advance is a good sized nest with tilting door. The moment the hen steps in the nest the door or shutter drops, imprisoning her. It looks to us as if the trap would work satisfactorily, and we will give it a fair trial. Mr. Darling does not sell plans; he furnishes complete nests all ready for use. Those interested should see his advertisement in this issue.

Mr. Darling is about removing from Long Island to Somers Point, N. J., where he will not only manufacture these nests, but also take the management of a poultry farm located there.

Good Work. The editor of A FEW HENS does not think he has the cream of layers—there are lots of 'em much better. He is fully aware of the fact that his hens are not breaking records; that they are just doing creditable work. But the reader must bear in mind that the editor is working a double object: first, good laying; second, good table carcasses. To go to the extreme of good laying would be a detriment to the meat side of the question, and *vice versa*.

We just received an interesting letter from Dr. H. S. Buffum, Walla Walla,

FOR CHICKS

the best possible feed is green cut bone—makes them hardier, better layers and better broilers. Greatly increases fertility of eggs, too. The best investment for a chicken raiser is a



STEARNS BONECUTTER

(formerly Webster & Hannum).

It pays for itself in a short time in increased eggs and decreased cost of feed. The Stearns is in all ways the best bone cutter. Easiest running, simplest, self-regulating, self-feeding, non-clogging, cuts bone, meat and gristle, cracks corn.

FREE A scientific and practical book on poultry feeding, and our catalogue. E. C. STEARNS & CO., Box 6, Syracuse, N. Y.

100 White WYANDOTTE HENS

for sale at \$1.00 each. Have got to be sold to make room for young stock. They are large size and great layers. Write at once. STEVENS & CO., Wilson, N. Y.

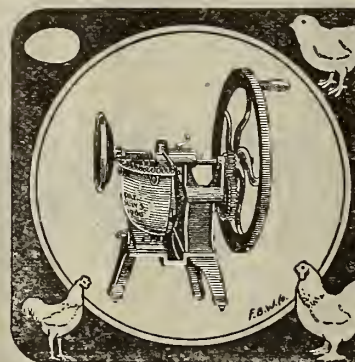
Wash., which gives a good account of his stock. He writes:

"I desire to state that I am much pleased with your poultry paper, A FEW HENS, it being just what a beginner needs. It is very interesting to me to compare my egg record with your list of standing of individual layers, and finding that my hens are giving considerable better account of themselves than yours.

"I thought the following record for five months might be of interest. My 5 White Wyandottes and 6 Brown Leghorns have, combined, laid 1,000 eggs from March 1st to August 1st, and from these eleven I have sold eggs to the value of \$29.45, and used 30 sittings myself, which at \$1.50, equals \$45; giving a total value of \$74.45. Is it not proper to credit the hens with the same price when used by myself as when sold to others? (Yes.—EDITOR). If so, the above is a pretty good showing for five months.

"I enclose you a record of my fowls for the above time, and wish to state that, contrary to most other poultry keepers, I have fed neither green bone nor meat meal during that time.

	40 Common.	6 B. Legs.	5 W. Wyans.
March	656	111	111
April	600	123	61
May	502	106	94
June	467	99	85
July	549	103	105
Total	2774	542	456
Average	69.3	9.03	91.2



The Whole Year Round

Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter, you can feed cut bone with profit. It increases the egg yield, improves the fertility and vitality of eggs for hatching, produces early-laying pullets, pushes young chicks, it means success with broilers, and in short, is an all round poultry food. It is easily prepared with

HUMPHREY GREEN BONE CUTTERS

embodying the latest patented features, and sold on a positive guarantee to cut more bone in less time and with less labor than any other cutter made. Your money back if you are not perfectly satisfied. Cuts vegetables for poultry and live stock. Send for handsome Catalogue and Egg Record Book, FREE.

HUMPHREY & SONS, Box 23, Joliet, Ill.

FOUR Poultry Papers For \$1.25.

Your Own Choice of TWO of Them.

FARM-POULTRY, semi-monthly, - - - Price, \$1.00
A FEW HENS, monthly, - - - Price, .25

YOUR CHOICE OF ANY OTHER TWO **50 Ct.** POULTRY PAPERS IN THE U. S., \$1.00.

All sent to one address, one year, for the small sum of \$1.25, cash in advance, which is the price of *Farm-Poultry* and *A Few Hens* alone.

YOU SAVE \$1.00 COLD CASH.

Send all orders to us, with cash, stamps or money orders. Do not send checks unless you add 10 cts. for exchange. No changes allowed after order is entered. Postage added in town where paper published.

FARM-POULTRY PUB. CO., 22 Custom House Street, Boston, Mass.

"During the five months 30 of the above hens hatched broods of chicks, and took care of them on an average of three weeks. Three of these were White Wyandottes during April and May.

"According to my figuring your best 11 hens laid during March, April, May and June, 621 eggs; my 11 in same months laid 792 eggs, leaving 171 in my favor.

Where to Locate. The question repeatedly reaches us, "Where is the best place for me to locate a poultry farm?" Repeatedly have we answered *right where you are*. That is,

if you are located within 100 miles of a good market, and you have good shipping facilities where you are, there is no reason why you could not build up a good business. Not everybody can locate in God's Country (South Jersey).

Last July we had a very pleasant visit from Anton Leibold, of Columbus, Ohio, and the question of location came up. It was soon seen that we here in Jersey were securing a third to a half better prices than ruled in Columbus, but the question of cost of grain had to be considered. Upon his return home, Mr. Leibold sent us the following quotations for July 14, 1900, to which we append those prevailing in Hammonton, N. J., on the same date:

	N. J.	Ohio.
Wheat, bushel,	.84	.90
Cracked corn, cwt.,	1.12	1.10
Oats, bushel,	.40	.35
Bran, cwt.,	1.00	.90
Cornmeal, cwt.,	1.12	1.10
Middlings, cwt.,	1.12	1.00
Oil meal, cwt.,	2.00	1.75
Corn, shelled, bush.,	.60	.55

A comparison of those tables will show that we pay very little more for our feed than Mr. Leibold must for his, while on the other hand we receive from a third to a half better prices. But would it pay Mr. Leibold or anyone residing in that part of Ohio to come to New Jersey and make other sacrifices for the difference.

We love Jersey better than any other State to reside in, and so does our family—but would Mrs. Leibold and her family like it here. That would be another consideration. Again, would not Mr. Leibold have to sacrifice property and other interests there to move away? That is a serious matter to weigh and consider. We are using Mr. Leibold for example—not that we know if he has any intentions of moving away.

This question of emigrating is one that should be carefully handled. It should not be done hastily. At one time we lived in a boom town in Virginia. Families flocked in by the boat load and settled on farms. They sacrificed homes, stock and furniture to get to Virginia. What was the result? In many cases the family would become discontent—they longed for old associates; sickness due to change of climate set in and made their condition all the more unbearable; seasons of poor crops and other drawbacks would set in, and the settler would fairly become desperate. The first offer, even though a great sacrifice, was readily accepted, and back home went a broken and sorrowful family.

Sharpless Cream Separators—Profitable Dairying.

Yet with all that, Virginia was not to be blamed. We saw others that came in who made a big success of the farm, and today they are contented and influential citizens.

The moral is this: Don't be led by booms or enthusiasm. Go slow. Think well. Make a change of location when you have fully convinced yourself—after due investigation—that it is for the best. We should advise going into the business right where you are best at home.

Exercise Theory. In this issue of A FEW HENS we give extracts from a report of the Utah Experiment Station, in which it would look like foolishness to make a hen "scratch for her food." We give the results for what they are worth. They do not agree with reports from other Stations, neither do they coincide with the experiences of all the large poultry plants in the country. The poulterer who will accept these results as positive will sooner or later find that he has taken the wrong road.

Allow a hen to live in idleness and the question of big egg records would rapidly dwindle. The fowls on A FEW HENS' Experimental Farm *must* exercise. We do not want any idlers. We cannot afford to keep them. While we accept the report of the Utah Station as

Our Incubators

have all the latest improvements, are sold at very low prices and guaranteed to please every customer. Send 6 cents for our 150 page catalogue, which contains full descriptions of our extensive line and tells how to raise poultry successfully. Plans for poultry and brooder houses.

Des Moines Incubator Co., Box 423, Des Moines, Ia.

WHITE Wyandotte Cockerels

March and April hatched. Grown on grass range. Bred from extra Winter laying stock. \$2.00 each until October 15th. Circular free.

Lyons Hill Poultry Farm, Athol Centre, Mass.

"D" Poultry Foods

Crushed Oyster Shells, Crushed Flint, Calcite, Ground Brick, Ground Beef Scraps, Meat Meal, Granulated Bone, Bone Meal, Send for samples and price-list

American Poultry Food Co., Box 948, York, Pa.

A Few Hints.

Are you ready to take advantage of low prices? For the present I will offer Crushed Oyster Shells, Orr's Clear Grit and Meat and Bone Meal at a greatly reduced price. These goods are A No. 1. Send for price, stating how much you want. I breed White Wyandottes, White Indian Games, and Light Brahma Bantams.

THE ELLIOT FARM,
D. LINCOLN ORR, Box 9, Orr's Mills, N. Y.

WYCHILD'S WYANDOTTES WHITES AND SILVERS EXCLUSIVELY.

EGGS for hatching from strong, farm raised stock. Send stamp for circular. Wm. H. Child, Hatboro, Pa.

honest, we believe that there were other conditions which made up for it. If fowls have free range, we admit, the question of exercise is practically settled, but when yarded, as they are on all the large poultry farms, there must be a substitute for the exercise a hen takes on the range, and that substitute lies in a scratching shed with the floor heavily covered with some light litter.

There seems a tendency, among some writers, to stigmatise all ideas as theories. Many of the old ideas, it is true, proved to be theories—but the man, or set of men, who will claim that the work of exercise is a theory, is the man who will sooner or later be writing to all the poultry editors in the country, asking "What shall I do to make my hens lay?"

Barred Rocks bred for beauty, size, early laying. Stock for sale. Mrs. Tilla Leach, Cheneyville, Ills.

GOLDEN BUFF LEGHORNS. Eggs \$1.00 per 15 Most complete catalogue ever issued for stamp. GEO. H. WOLF, Wetminster, Md.

Crystal Spring Stock Farm, Burlington, Mass. Breeders of prize-winning R. I. Reds and Belgian Hares. E. W. Collins, M'g'r. Mem. R. I. Red Club.

TURKEYS

easily raised with the aid of our **BANNER TURKEY PILLS**. The only successful **LIFE SAVER** for young Poults. 25 and 50c. per box postpaid. Our 125-page illustrated Poultry Supply Catalogue free. Send for one. Excelsior Wire & Poultry Supply Co., 26 and 28 Vesey St., New York City. When writing kindly mention A Few Hens.

1880 UTILITY 1900.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS and WHITE WYANDOTTES.

Won at Vermont big show, January, 1900: 1st and 3d cockerel; 1st, 2d and 3d pullet; 2d and 3d hen; 1st and 2d big brown eggs; 1st on dressed chickens; 1st and 3d breeding pen; 5 special best P. Rocks.

EGGS AND STOCK FOR SALE.

Hillside Farm, W. D. Foster, Prop., Woodstock, Vt.

Poultry Marker.

With the Marker here illustrated, any form of mark may be adopted by punching the web between the toes. A complete record of chicks from different parties and strains can thus be kept, as well as to know your birds wherever they may be. It may save you money and a valuable bird. It costs, postpaid,

25 cts.

Send all orders to us.

FIVE MARKERS SENT FOR \$1.00.

I. S. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass.

RABBITS

The only low-cost book on the Rabbit ever published to our knowledge, is "The Rabbit: How to Select, Breed and Manage the Rabbit and Belgian Hare, for Pleasure or Profit," by W. N. Richardson, a man of long experience with Rabbits. Third edition now ready, nicely illustrated, enlarged and much improved with breeders' directory. Price 25 cts. or with AMERICAN POULTRY ADVOCATE one year 40 cts.

CLARENCE C. DePUY, Publisher, Syracuse, N. Y.

Changes That good old American Hands. *Poultry Journal*—which, like wine, has considerably improved with age, has again changed hands. Not a radical change, merely the stepping out of one of the partners (Morgan Bates).

Twelve years ago Morgan Bates purchased the good will and fixtures from C. J. Ward, and at once made big improvements. He changed the style completely. The *Journal* was running in an old rut, and it seemed could not get out of it. Mr. Bates put new life in it. He gave to the poultry world a magazine that at once met with popular favor. He got it out of the old rut. Five years ago George G. Bates was taken in as a half partner—and now, with the September number we are told that George G. will be alone at the helm.

The readers of the A. P. J. are to be congratulated that the magazine does not go into entirely new hands, and that its present high character and standing will be upheld.

"I now turn this magazine over to less tired hands and brain and step aside for a young man who is as a son to me," are Morgan Bates' parting words. The poultry world will miss him.

Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

To A FEW HENS:

You ask for a monthly statement of chickens held in trust,
The amount of corn they've eaten before their crops did burst.
There are yet fourteen in number, a goodly healthy flock,
And with good care and feeding will soon be paying stock.

Your old rooster has gone to glory, long since he ceased to eat—
For Condit thought it best to roast his savory meat.
His comrades of the yard, the little struts of three—
Now flaunt their flannel legs and with my hens agree.

They feel the oats within them, their crested plumage wear,
They think they have no betters here or anywhere.
They shake their double combs glistening in the sun,
And when fighting with my rooster never get outdone.

The Brown Leghorns do much cackling upon the lofty nest,
Of all good hen maternity conceded as the best.
They are not much for setting, but, Oh, the eggs they lay,
Much like Old Grimes' Hen that laid three eggs a day.

You have one short legged Plymouth Rock,
That's naked, must be cold, I wish she had a frock.
How can I enlist your pity in this her direst plight,
Send down a suit of flannel and I'll put it on tonight.

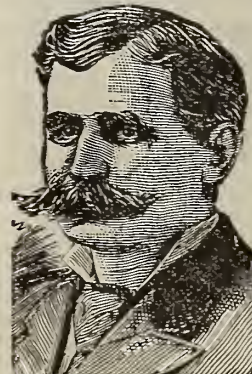
In words somewhere verbose I have versified your hens,
At this season of the year when we ought to make amends.
Loving yet the humorous and filled with hearty cheer,
I can wish you nothing better than a Happy New Year.

J. B. E.

Practical stock that won 63 premiums on 54 entries last season, including winners at Boston. B. and W. Rocks, W. Wyans., S. C. B. and W. Legs, R. I. Reds, Bl. Javas. Eggs. Cir. G. A. Chapin, Hampden, Mass.

Don't shirk work.
Kill the bad odors.
Be above criticism.
Paint the buildings.
Keep the plant neat.
Build less air castles.
Get rid of the bully hens.
Are the hens molting early?
Slipshod methods are costly.
Lay your plan for Winter work.
Constant attention is imperative.
Fill up a few barrels of road dust.
Don't Winter any but profitable birds.
A pound of feathers weighs 7000 grains.
Don't let your enthusiasm carry you away.
Get out the whitewash pail and go to work.
Don't aim higher than you are able to shoot.
Get quarters ready for storing a lot of leaves.
There is entirely too much old stock on the farm.
Preventions don't cost quarter as much as remedies.
A fickle-minded person never is a success as a poulterer.
The up-to-date poulterer is constantly looking ahead.
Don't trust to luck—roll up your sleeves and go to work.
Have you joined our farmers' club—the Brevity Symposium?
The cool nights of September remind us of approaching Winter.
Poultry for fancy and poultry for profit are two different systems.
Unless the hens have your confidence they will be unprofitable.
G. O. Brown says whitewash covers a multitude of unsightliness.

Don't try to get on top of the heap until you can steady your nerves.
The barn-yard is the poorest place on the farm to quarter poultry.
Never mind what your neighbor does; sweep before your own door.
Sweep down the cobwebs; there's not much beauty to such drapings.
Now is the best time to look after repairs.
Do not wait until Winter is here.
More failures are caused by lack of good business sense than anything else.
Disinfect the house and premises whenever the slightest odor is detected.
Cut down the surplus stock. Do not Winter a single bird that is unprofitable.
Cold storage people are beginning to believe that the egg market is too much of a risk.

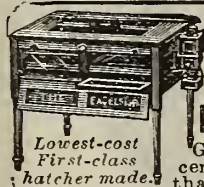


Why try to stick things with something that doesn't stick? Buy **MAJOR'S CEMENT**; you know it sticks. Nothing breaks away from it. Stick to **MAJOR'S CEMENT**. Buy once, you will buy forever. There is nothing as good; don't believe the substituter.

MAJOR'S RUBBER and MAJOR'S LEATHER.
Two separate cements—the best. Insist on having them.
ESTABLISHED 1876.
15 and 25 cents per bottle at all druggists.
MAJOR CEMENT CO., NEW YORK CITY.

MY BROWN LEGHORNS

are great layers. Cockerels and pullets for sale after September 15. Breeding stock now at a bargain. Eggs in season. LEE SHORTT, Lower Cabot, Vt.



Hatch Chickens by Steam

with the perfect, self-regulating **EXCELSIOR Incubator**

Lowest-cost
First-class
hatcher made.

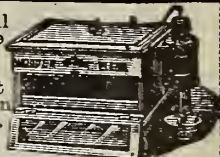
Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at lower cost than any other hatcher.

Catalogues Free.

GEO. H. STAHL, 114 to 122 S. 6th St., Quincy, Ill.

with the most efficient small incubator ever invented—the **Wooden Hen**

Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale; 50 egg capacity.



EVERY MOTHER SHOULD

Have it in the House

To cure the common ailments that may occur in every family as long as life has woes.

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT has been used and indorsed since 1810, to relieve or cure every form of Pain and Inflammation. Is Safe, Soothing, Sure. Otherwise it could not have existed for almost a Century.

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT

Is strictly a family remedy for Internal as much as External use
To cure Colds, Croup, Coughs, Catarrh
Cramps and Colic it acts promptly.

Originated by an old Family Physician. Trust what time has indorsed. Sold by Druggists. Price 25 and 50c. Book Treatment of Disease sent free, L. S. JOHNSON & CO., Boston, Mass.

Poultry keeping is an art that can be made successful only by great study and practice.

In buying stock or fixtures, the old adage "the best is the cheapest" should be kept in mind.

As near as possible, let there be a daily cleaning of the hen houses. It is labor rightly directed.

The poultryman may have a number of off-days, but there are precious few days off for him.

Those who begin on a large scale generally pull in their oars before they have rightly begun to sail.

The fancier has long since given up poking fun at the poultry farmer. He has learned a thing or two.

The man who tries to run a poultry farm with speculative ideas, generally "bites off more than he can chew."

Farm Journal says a good Game cock is about as good as a guinea for scaring hawks and crows, and not so noisy.

The *Baltimore Sun* says one of the factors of success in poultry raising is to be always prepared for emergencies.

To build a scratching shed house complete—which includes lumber, wire, nails, paint, paper and labor—will cost \$2.00 a running foot.

Texas Farm and Ranch says a chicken snake 2 1-2 inches in diameter can swallow a fowl 4 1-2 inches in diameter without serious trouble.

Incubators, brooders, cookers, bone, root and clover cutters are machines that should be on every poultry farm. They are labor-saving appliances.

Just why so much space is given in the poultry papers to the Belgian hare, we cannot understand. Surely the hare does not belong to the poultry tribe.

The *Southern Fancier* says the secret of success lies in having something for sale each week of the year, catering, of course, more extensively to the demands of the season.

Don't expect to reach the top round of the ladder at one step, says *Southern Fancier*. Lay your foundation well by gaining a thorough knowledge of the business, and with proper effort success will follow.

The *Southern Field* remarks that poultry is receiving more attention than heretofore throughout nearly all sections of the South, with a marked improvement in quality showing that the standard is being raised everywhere.

"Farm-raised stock" is not always a guarantee of health and vigor. If "farm-raised" fowls are allowed to drink from dirty pools in the barnyard; if they are compelled to roost out doors in all sorts of weather; if they must hunt their grain among the waste in the manure piles; we had far rather take our chances from yarded stock. We like to know what our fowls eat and drink, and how comfortable they are at night. Do not place too much reliance on "go as you please" stock.

Editor Downs is very observing. Read what he has to say: "If you will study closely the habits and peculiarities of young chicks you will be enabled to analogize them with children. You will see the pouting, the wilful, the careless, the indolent and the

energetic. You will note how, like little children, they are prone to go where they are forbidden, and do that they are commanded not to do. And like little children they soon learn to love those that are kind to them.

Poultry at the U. S. Stations.

A Report of Three Years' Results of Poultry Experiments at the Utah Station—Is Exercise Necessary?

The following extracts are from Bulletin No. 67, of the Utah Experiment Station, Logan, Utah:

What is the most profitable age of the hen? Two pens of Leghorns averaged 175 eggs per fowl during the first year. During the second year the same fowls averaged 132 1-2, and during the third, 116 1-2 eggs per fowl. The per cent. profit on food was 188 the first year, 118 the second, and 97 1-2 the third. A test with two other pens of Leghorns gave the following results: First year number of eggs laid 159; second year, 119 1-2; per cent. profit on food, first year, 184; second year, 99.

What is the effect of exercise on egg production? The results for three years are in favor of feeding grain in a box against feeding it in straw and making the hens scratch it out. One pen with all grain fed in a box averaged 147 1-2

eggs per fowl per year for three years. A like pen having the grain fed in a litter of straw averaged 132 eggs. During the first year as pullets the results were in favor of the exercise, the pen fed in a box averaging 158 eggs per fowl, against 182 for the pen fed in the straw. These results were secured with Leghorns. With two other pens of Leghorns, during the first year as pullets the pen with "exercise" laid 160 eggs, and the pen with "no exercise" 157 eggs. During the second year the "exercised" pen laid 119 and the "no exercise" 120, the results for the two years being practically the same for those two pens.

BOYER likes White Ply. Rocks. I sell good ones. H. D. Hopkins, Montpelier, Vt.

POULTRY SUPPLIES.

We are Wholesale Jobbers of a most complete line.

JOHNSON & STOKES, Philadelphia, Pa.

THIS PAPER will cost you only Twenty-five Cents for TWELVE MONTHS. Can you afford to do without it? We accept postage stamps in payment for it. Order at once, so as to get every issue.



JOHN R. JONES, of Suffield, Conn., says:—"I find Sheridan's Condition Powder fed once daily in the food, very valuable for molting hens. It assists in growing new feathers, makes the combs bright red, and gives a rich, natural gloss to the plumage. Have used it for years."

When your hens show signs of molting, feed them once daily, in a hot bran mash, SHERIDAN'S POWDER. It will help your hens to get their new coat quickly and will bring young pullets to early laying. Do this and you will have as others do who have tried the plan, an abundance of eggs to sell in the fall and winter months when eggs sell from 25 to 45 cents per dozen.

C. A. GRAVES, of West Whately, Mass., says:—"Sheridan's Condition Powder, is in my opinion the best egg producer ever discovered. I have fed it for three years and shall continue its use for growing stock, as it helps to develop and hasten the maturity of pullets."

J. W. HEGE, of Williamson, Pa., says:—"I received \$5.00 worth of Sheridan's Powder of you. Began to feed the Powder at once. Our eggs increased three times the amount in a month's feeding. I can say if the farmer will begin to feed Sheridan's Condition Powder early in the fall, his hens will be ready to lay daily when eggs commence to rise."

Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers, or sent by mail. Large cans most economical to buy.

IF YOU CAN'T GET IT NEAR HOME, SEND TO US. ASK FIRST. We send one pack, 25 cts; five, \$1.00. A two-pound can, \$1.20; Six, \$5.00. Express paid. Sample copy "best Poultry paper" sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

If your hens are shedding their feathers and not laying, they are out of condition. The best poultry authorities say, "when hens are in condition they will lay perfect eggs and plenty of them." Then help them over molting time or your egg profit will be lost.

Sheridan's Condition Powder

will help the molting hens. The process of molting is a very exhausting one. The growing of new feathers requires all the nitrogen and phosphates in the food, so that there is an extra demand upon the strength. The elements needed by poultry at molting, in addition to good food, are contained in SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER to a high degree. Thousands of poultrymen have proven it to be worth its weight in gold for molting hens. It keeps them in health, helps form the new plumage, and gets them in condition to lay when prices are high. Hens rarely lay when they are molting.

3. As to the effect of exercise on food consumption, the average of pens three and four years shows that the pen with "exercise" consumed 62.4 cents worth of food, and the pen "without exercise," 60.8. In the case of two other pens, the average was 63.5 cents and 62 cents respectively per fowl in favor of "no exercise."
4. During the year the Leghorns consumed an average of 62 cents worth of food per fowl. The Wyandottes consumed 81.6 cents per fowl, and two pens of Plymouth Rocks averaged 87.7 cents per fowl.
5. The Leghorns consumed during the year an average of about 75 pounds of total food, or about 55 pounds of dry matter per fowl; the Wyandottes, 100 pounds total food, 73 pounds dry matter, and the Plymouth Rocks about 110 pounds total food and about 80 pounds dry matter.
6. The three years' results from Leghorn pullets showed an average of 162 eggs per fowl at a food cost of 4.6 cents per dozen. These results are not from selected or "pedigreed" layers.
7. The record of weights of fowls shows that Leghorns weigh about ten per cent. more during their second year than during the first year as pullets. During the third year there is practically no increase in weight.
8. The largest egg production was during the period of greatest food consumption. The smallest egg yield was when the food consumption was least. The hens attained their greatest weight immediately preceding the periods of greatest egg production. After the periods of heavy laying they showed a loss in weight.
9. Five pens of Leghorns two and three years old laid eggs averaging 1.56 pounds per dozen. Five pens of Leghorn pullets laid eggs averaging 1.37 pounds per dozen. The eggs from the pen of Wyandotte pullets averaged 1.56 pounds per dozen, and those laid by four pens of Plymouth Rock pullets averaged 1.52 pounds per dozen.
10. Eggs from different hens of the same breed varied in weight. One pen of Leghorns two years old laid eggs averaging 1.45 pounds per dozen. Two other pens of the same age, but of a different strain, laid eggs averaging 1.63 pounds per dozen. The eggs from the latter two pens weighed more than those of the Plymouth Rock or Wyandotte pullets.
11. The eggs from five pens of Leghorn pullets averaged 1.44 pounds per dozen. The eggs from the same pens during the second year averaged 1.54 pounds per dozen. In other words, the size of the eggs was eight per cent. greater the second year than the first.
12. A test of wheat versus corn gave results in favor of wheat for egg production.
13. In the case of Leghorn pullets, the addition of dried blood to the ration considerably increased the egg yield. With Plymouth Rock pullets no effect was noticed on the yearly record. With both, the pens having dried blood began laying earlier than the others.

14. The discarding of corn (except the little used in the mash) and substituting a small quantity of sunflower seed, did not materially affect the egg yield, there being but a slight increase. Owing to the greater cost of the sunflower seed the financial results were in favor of the corn.
15. The results of a test with Leghorn pullets showed that a nutritive ratio of 1:4.95 was very much superior to one of 1:6.66. With Plymouth Rocks the results were inconclusive.
16. An initial test with one cockerel and one capon gave no indication of increased growth from the operation of caponizing; but the appearance of the dressed bird and the quality of the meat showed a decided advantage from the operation.

Our Market Report.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of August—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

NEW YORK.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh eggs.....	20	15	19
Broilers, dressed.....	16		
Fowls, dressed.....		10	10 1-2
Ducks, dressed.....	11 1-2	11	11 1-4
Turkey hens, dressed....	10	10	10
Turkey toms, dressed....	8	8	8
Old Roosters, dressed.....	5 1-2	5	5 1-4
Geese, dressed.....	14	10	12
Fowls, live.....	10	11 1-2	10 3-4
Chickens, live.....	12	10 1-2	11 3-4
Roosters, live.....	6 1-2	6	6 1-4
Turkeys, live.....	9	8	8 1-2
Ducks, live, pair.....	.60	.60	.60
Geese, live, pair.....	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00

PHILADELPHIA.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Fresh Eggs.....	17	14	15 1-2
Hens, live.....	11 1-2	11	11 1-4
Hens, dressed.....	11	10 1-2	10 3-4
Old Roosters, live.....	8 1-2	7	7 3-4
Old Roosters, dressed.....	6 1-2	6 1-2	6 1-2
Spring Chickens, live.....	14	10	12

BOSTON.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, nearby and Cape....	22	22	22
Chickens, dressed.....	18	15	16 1-2
Fowls, dressed.....	13	12	12 1-2
Fowls, live.....	10	11	10 1-2
Roosters, live.....	6	5 1-2	5 3-4
Roosters, dressed.....	7	6 1-2	6 3-4
Ducks, dressed.....	12	10	11
Geese, dressed.....	10	10	10
Turkey hens.....	11 1-2	11	11 1-4
Turkey toms.....	8	8	8
Broilers.....	18	16	17
Spring Chickens, live.....	11	10	10 1-2

CHICAGO.

	Highest,	Lowest,	Av.,
Eggs, fresh.....	14 1-2	12 1-2	13 1-2
Chickens, hens, scalded....	9	8 1-2	8 3-4
Chickens, hens, alive.....	8	8	8
Spring Chickens, live.....	10 1-2	9	9 3-4
Roosters, live.....	5	5	5
Ducks, live, old.....	7 1-2	6	6 3-4
Ducks, Spring, dressed....	10 1-2	9	9 3-4
Geese, live, per dozen.....	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00
Turkey hens, dressed.....	8	6	7
Turkey hens, live.....	7	6	6 1-2
Turkey gobblers, dressed..	8	6	7
Turkey gobblers, live.....	7	6	6 1-2

We Have Four Trios BUFF ROCKS
in our Medway, N. Y. yards to close out at \$5.00 a trio, this season's breeders.
FORD BROS., Medway, N. Y. or Oak Hill, N. Y.

A PATENT RIGHT on a Trap Attachment for Hens' Nests. Instantly applied to any nest box. Will sell cheap. JOHN J. WALSH, Manassas, Va.

COCKERELS. March and April hatched White Wyandotte and B. P. Rock, from hardy, heavy laying stock. \$1.50 and \$2.50 each. J. T. Jackson, Wyandotte Farm, Metuchen, N. J.

PULLETS and COCKERELS

From about 1 1-2 to 2 pounds each—Thoroughbred White Wyandottes. One dollar each. Parents are superior quality, a number scoring 90 to 93 1-2. To quick buyers a chance to secure really excellent stock for little money. H. B. HALE, Trenton Junct., N. J.

Utility White Wyandottes.

A FEW CHOICE BREEDING COCKERELS FOR SALE.

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Member National White Wyandotte Club.

"Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail, - - 25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry, " - - 25 "
Broilers for Profit, " - - 50 "
Farm-Range, " - - 50 "
Farm-Range, one year, - - 25 "
Total, **\$1.75.**

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

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Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.), New Jersey.

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In Combination with
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American Fancier's Poultry Book.
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FARM-POULTRY, semi-mo., \$1.00 } **ALL**
THE FEATHER, monthly, .50 } **FOUR**
A FEW HENS, monthly, .25 } **FOR**

Total with Book, \$2.25 } **\$1.35**

EACH additional Book of above list, 25 cents more.

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Black Minorcas.

S. C. B. Minorcas exclusively. Bred for 11 yrs. from best native and imported strains. Trap nests used in all pens. Farm range. Last season's breeders for sale. 25 hens \$1.00 each; 25 at \$2.00; 25 at \$3.00. These hens have long backs and deep bodies. Pitt and Royal strains. No young stock before September.
MRS. GEO. E. MONROE, Box B, Dryden, N. Y.
Member Am. B. Minorca Club.

What a DOLLAR Will Do.

1 Box Lambert's Death to Lice,
20 lbs. Oyster Shells, 1 Yearly Egg Record,
10 lbs. Rock Grit, 5 lbs. Granulated Bone,
10 lbs. Meat Meal, 64-page Poultry Book,
10 Climax Leg Bands, 5 lbs. Ground Brick,
Formula how to make Liquid Lice Paint,
Poultry Industry, the People's Poultry Paper,
Illustrated, 16 to 20 pages, monthly, one year. This
collection worth \$2. Sent you by freight for only
\$1. Money back if we don't please.
W. S. GALLATIN & SON, York, Pa.

Questions Briefly Answered.

Condensed Replies to the Many Inquiries Received at this Office.

DISEASES.

R. G. W.: When the chickens droop, and their is a forlorn look, the trouble is generally due to lice. See the many remedies suggested in our Symposium. When the comb and wattles become pale, there is a presence, more or less of liver complaint. About the best remedy that we know of is a Parsons' Purgative Pill each night, for three nights in succession.

Mrs. E. T. McC.: We believe your chicks are suffering from indigestion and we would suggest that you add about a teaspoonful of common baking soda to their drinking water.

Brahmas, Black
Rocks or Wyandottes.

J. W. E.: When eggs show ridges, and are generally out of shape, it is due to an over-accumulation of fat around the ovaries.

CROSSES.

S. A. W.: White Indian Game crossed on Light Brahma hens would make a good table cross, but would be nothing extra for egg yield.

H. C. M.: Cannot say how the Buff Leghorn breed was manufactured. A cross of Brown Leghorn on Buff Cochin would be a good table cross. Half-bred males should never be used.

BROILERS AND ROASTERS.

J. B. B.: Any of our American breeds make good broilers and roasters—the Wyandottes, without a doubt, excelling as broilers.

FOOD AND FEEDING.

R. E. B.: We buy our clover hay already cut, so cannot give you the desired information.

C. W. F.: In feeding Bowker's Animal Meal, we feed about one part Animal Meal to 20 parts other feed (mixed ground grain) by measurement.

MISCELLANEOUS.

P. H. G.: For Brahmas, we build our roosts not over 18 inches above ground, and a platform under the roosts to catch the droppings. It is best to have a "ladder" in front of the platform so the fowls can walk up it. This ladder is a planed foot-wide board, with strips nailed on it every three inches. Where you have a dry floor, Brahmas prefer to sit on the floor in bedding, at night.

People We Know.

Facts and News Gleaned Especially for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

Emory E. Banks, Crittenden, N. Y., is offering bargains in Light Brahmas, Buff Wyandottes and Buff Cochin Bantams.

The Flower City Plant Food Co., Rochester, N. Y., are about placing on the market a disinfectant insect powder, in composition and usage far different than anything heretofore advertised.

The New England agents for the Prairie State incubators and brooders, Jos. Breck & Sons, Boston, have ordered five car loads of the machines to be shipped them as soon as they can be gotten ready.

Pope & Pope, Louisville, Ky., have just forwarded us their illustrated circular of Rose Comb Brown Leghorns. We had a very pleasant visit from these gentlemen last month, and received a number of valuable pointers from them on their specialty.

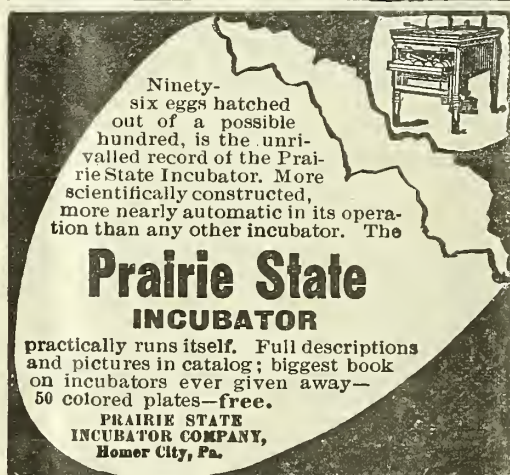
C. G. Baxter & Son, Merchantville, N. J., are advertising bargains in Pit Games in this issue of A FEW HENS. This is not only a reliable firm, but the stock they have to sell are strictly a No. 1. This firm will in the future breed heavy-weight White Pit Games, White Wyandottes (Stroud strain), and Light Brahmas (Boyer str.)

Edgar L. Warren, Wolfboro, N. H., the author of the book "200 Eggs a Year," writes that the first edition having become exhausted, he was compelled to get out a new and enlarged edition of 64 pages. This is one of the best poultry books on the market, and the writer tells what he knows in plain language. Look up the ad in this issue.

A. J. Hallock, Specimen, N. Y., has been looking up incubators very carefully, and has decided to use nothing but the Prairie States.

It gives us pleasure to call attention to the ad. of the F. W. Mann Co., of Milford, Mass., which appears elsewhere in this issue. These people need no introduction to our readers. Thousands are making profitable use of the Mann Bone Cutters and other poultry specialties. No breeder is living up to his full privileges who does not get and study carefully the very complete catalogue which the Mann Company gladly send to all who write. Address them at Milford, Mass., and mention this paper.

W. R. Hobbie, Kankakee, Ills.: "I send in an advertisement this month of young pedigreed Barred Plymouth Rock cockerels. These are from good layers and are nice birds, which will make good breeders for next Spring. I believe there is some demand for young stock at lower prices now than later, and think some help to supply the demand should be well received by early purchasers. I use Record trap nests and have bred Barred Rocks for several years, and from some of the best strains. A FEW HENS is a dandy, and I wish it success."



Ninety-six eggs hatched out of a possible hundred, is the unrivalled record of the Prairie State Incubator. More scientifically constructed, more nearly automatic in its operation than any other incubator. The

Prairie State INCUBATOR

practically runs itself. Full descriptions and pictures in catalog; biggest book on incubators ever given away—50 colored plates—free.

PRAIRIE STATE INCUBATOR COMPANY, Homer City, Pa.

FOR SALE. In Cornwall N. Y., a five acre poultry farm. Good 7-room dwelling, barn & poultry houses. Healthful location. Particulars. A. W. Brewster, Hamonton, N. J.

NO MORE

CHICKEN POX or SWELLED HEAD where once BANNER "A" OINTMENT has been used. It does its work fine. Nothing better known. 25 cents per bottle postpaid. Our 125-page illustrated Poultry Supply Catalogue free.

Excelsior Wire & Poultry Supply Co., 26 and 28 Vesey St., New York City. When writing kindly mention A Few Hens.

WHITE Wyandottes ONLY.

ENTIRE time given to breeding for eggs and meat. Large, vigorous February and March cockerels, from unrelated matings, above standard weight.

We Have Some Beauties at \$2 and \$3. Yearling Parents of above, \$2.

We will try to please. HOMESTEAD POULTRY FARM, Hopkinton, Mass.

I. K. FELCH & SON,

Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,

—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—

Standard Points and Egg Records Combined. Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

You Want Layers Bred for Utility.

Barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes, raised on farm range, strong and vigorous. Cockerels \$2, \$3 and \$4. Pullets \$2 and \$2.50. Address, CHAS. RUNYON, Lake Como, N. J.

"The kind you try before you buy." That's an ad. line used in the advertisement of Lee's Lice Killer, found on another page of this issue. It has a fair dealing sound about it, in keeping with the reputation of the house manufacturing this popular insecticide. It has gained the reputation of being not only the most effective insecticide made, but also the simplest to use. It is a liquid preparation easily applied to the roosts and walls of the poultry house. It is equally effective for hogs and other live stock. Send to Geo. H. Lee Company, Omaha, Neb., for a free sample and catalogue of poultry supplies.

Mrs. J. F. Hadley, 382 River Drive, Passaic, N. J., writes: "I embrace the opportunity to appeal to you because of your article *Help Wanted*. We are 12 miles from New York by trolley, 13 cents fare each way. We have an unusually fine hen house, it being built for a gentleman's son at a very large expense. I now have 40 hens, and would like an enterprising young man to assist me to make this expensive hen house pay. Would give a man his board for the work I might require of him, and an interest in my enterprise. A man with sufficient push might study in the city, if necessary, and yet earn his board and a little money besides. Could give a man some bookkeeping to do, thus adding to his resources."

In our advertising columns will be seen the announcement of a broiler plant for rent. This is one of the best, if not the very best broiler plant in Hamonton, and one which has been doing successful work right along. The proprietor's business in Philadelphia is such that he cannot well spare the time in Hamonton, and he has placed this plant in our hands for disposal. Besides part of the handsome dwelling (furnished or unfurnished) the following outfit will be rented: Brooding house containing 20 pens, each accommodating 100 chicks, the whole operated by a Prairie State system. Under the same roof is the heater room, besides a picker room and feed room, making it all convenient. The incubator house is a part cellar, and is the most complete and finest built house we have yet seen. It contains nine 300 and one 100-egg incubators (Prairie State). Besides barn, hen and chicken houses, etc.

FOR SALE. (Knapp strain) White Leghorn hens to make room for young stock. Utility fowls. Trap nests used. Young stock in Sept. Thos. Hartley, Castile, N. Y.